

George Washington Papers, Series 2, Letterbooks 1754-1799

To LUND WASHINGTON

February 28, 1778.

...If you should happen to draw a *prize* in the *militia* , I must provide a man, either there or here, in your room; as nothing but your having the charge of my business, and the entire confidence I repose in you, could make me tolerable easy from home for such a length of time as I have been, and am likely to be. This therefore leads me to say, that I hope no motive, however powerful, will induce you to leave my business, whilst I, in a manner, am banished from home; because I should be unhappy to see it in common hands. For this reason, altho' from accidents and misfortunes not to be averted by human foresight, I make little or nothing from my Estate, I am still willing to increase your wages, and make it worth your while to continue with me. To go on in the improvement of my Estate in the manner heretofore described to you, fulfilling my plans, and keeping my property together, are the principal objects I have in view during these troubles; and firmly believing that they will be accomplished under your management, as far as circumstances and acts of providence will allow, I feel quite easy under disappointments; which I should not do, if my business was in common hands, liable to suspicions. I am, etc.³⁸

38. Extract in "Washington's Letter Book, No. 5." Lund answered (March 18): "By your letter I should suppose you were apprehensive I intended to leave you. I hope for the future you will entertain a better opinion of me than to beleive that while you are encountering every danger and difficulty, at the hazard of your life and repose, giving up all domestic happiness, to serve the public and me among them, that I would attempt to take advantage of you by screwing up my wages or leaving your estate to the care

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of a stranger.” Lund Washington's letter is from the Toner Transcripts in the Library of Congress.

***To MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE**

White plains, August 10, 1778.

My dear Marqs.: Your favor of the 6th. Instr. which came to my hands yesterday, afforded a fresh proof of the noble principles on which you act, and has a just claim to my sincere and hearty thanks.

The common cause, of which you have been a Zealous supporter, would I know, be benefitted by Genl. Greene's presence at Rhode Island, as he is a native of that State, has an interest with the People, and a thorough knowledge of the Country; and therefore I accepted his proffered Services; but was a little uneasy lest you should conceive that, it was intended to lessen your Command. Merely as Qr. Master Genl., Genl. Greene did not incline to act in a detached part of the Army; nor was it to be expected; It became necessary therefore to give him a Command, and consequently, to divide the Continental Troops. Your chearful acquiescence to the Measure, after being appointed to the Command of the Brigades that Marched from this Army, obviated every difficulty, and gave me singular pleasure.

I am very happy to find that the Standards of France and America are likely to be united under your Commd. at Rhode Island. I am persuaded that the supporters of each will be emulous to acquire honor, and promote your glory upon this occasion.

The Courier to Count D'Estaing is waiting, I have only time therefore to assure you, that with the most perfect esteem, and exalted regard, I have the honor etc.

To LUND WASHINGTON

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Middle Brook, February 24[–26], 1779.

Dear Lund: I wrote to you by the last post, but in so hasty a manner as not to be so full and clear as the importance of the subject might require. In truth, I find myself at a loss to do it to my own satisfaction [even?] in this hour of more leisure and thought, because it is a matter of much importance and requires a good deal of judgment and foresight to time things in such a way as to answer the purposes I have in view.

The advantages resulting from the sale of my negroes, I have very little doubt of; because, as I observed in my last, if we should ultimately prove unsuccessful (of which I am under no apprehension unless it falls on us as a punishment for our want of public, and indeed private virtue) it would be a matter of very little consequence to me, whether my property is in Negroes, or loan office Certificates, as I shall neither ask for, nor expect any favor from his most gracious Majesty, nor any person acting under his authority; the only points therefore for me to consider, are, first, whether it would be most to my interest, in case of a fortunate determination of the present contest, to have negroes, and the Crops they will make; or the sum they will now fetch and the interest of the money. And, secondly, the critical moment to make this sale.

With respect to the first point (if a negro man will sell at, or near one thousand pounds, and woman and children in proportion) I have not the smallest doubt on which side the balance, placed in the scale of interest, will preponderate: My scruples arise from a reluctance in offering these people at public vendue, and on account of the uncertainty of timing the sale well. In the first case, if these poor wretches are to be held in a state of slavery, I do not see that a change of masters will render it more irksome, provided husband and wife, and Parents and children are not separated from each other, which is not my intentions to do. And with respect to the second, the judgment founded in a knowledge of circumstances, is the only criterion for determining when the tide of

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depreciation is at an end; for like the flux and reflux of the water, it will no sooner have got to its

full ebb or flow, but an immediate turn takes place, and every thing runs in a contrary direction. To hit this critical moment then, is the point; and a point of so much nicety, that the longer I reflect upon the subject, the more embarrassed I am in my opinion; for if a sale takes place while the money is in a depreciating state, that is, before it has arrived at the lowest ebb of depreciation; I shall lose the difference, and if it is delayed, 'till some great and important event shall give a decisive turn in favor of our affairs, it may be too late. Notwithstanding, upon a full consideration of the whole matter; if you have done nothing in consequence of my last letter, I wou'd have you wait 'till you hear further from me on this subject. I will, in the meanwhile, revolve the matter in my mind more fully, and may possibly be better able to draw some more precise conclusions than at present, while you may be employed in endeavouring to ascertain the highest prices Negroes sell at, in different parts of the Country, where, and in what manner it would be best to sell them, when such a measure is adopted, (which I think will very likely happen in the course of a few months.)

Inclosed is my Bond for conveyance of the Land purchased of the Ashfords &c. It is as well drawn as I can do it, and I believe it to be effectual.

February 26, 1779.

Your Letter of the 17th. inst: is just come to hand, your apprehensions on account of my health are groundless; the irregularity of the Post, and stoppage of your letters, or miscarriages of them, were the principal causes of my long silence. My last letter to you was full on the subject of corn; I shall not touch upon it therefore in this. I then desired, and again repeat my wish, that you would sell every thing about the house and plantations, that is not essentially necessary. Mr. Custis wrote to me for an Anchor, to be sold or lent, the former I prefer, as I wish to get quit of all those kind of things; the money arising

from all which, the sale of Flour &c, I would have put in the continental loan office. I am glad to hear your success in Lambs is so great. Mrs. Washington joins in remembrance to yourself and Milly,⁵² with Dr. Lund, Your affecte. Servant.⁵³

To LIEUTENANT WILLIAM COLFAX⁵³

October 2, 1779.

Sir: What Major Gibbs's plan is, and what his present line of conduct tends to, I shall not take upon me to decide; nor shall I at this moment enquire into them. I mean to act coolly and deliberately myself, and will therefore give him an opportunity of recollecting himself. He has been guilty of a piece of disrespect; to give it no worse term; such an one, as I much question if there is another officer in the line of the army would have practiced: and because I would not suffer my orders to be trampled upon; a supercilious, and self-important conduct on his part is the consequence.

But this by the bye. Whether you have embarked voluntarily in Majr. Gibbs's present plan of separation, which I think incumbent on me to say, is an act entirely of his own seeking; or whether you have been lead into it from an opinion that having given offence, your company might not be altogether pleasing at my Table, I cannot undertake to say. But to remove all doubt, I am lead from a regard to my own character, and by principles of justice to yours, to inform you, that I consider you as the instrument, not the cause of disobedience to

⁵². Milley Posey.

⁵³. This text is from Washington's "Letter Book, No. 5," which contains copies of a few of his letters from the year 1778 through 1783, which were not entered therein until 1784.

⁵³. Of the First Connecticut Regiment. He had been detailed to the Commander in Chief's Guard in March, 1778; transferred to the Fifth Connecticut Regiment in January, 1781;

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captain in April, 1783; retained in Swift's Connecticut Regiment; served to November, 1783.

my orders, respecting the Tent. That I had not the smallest intention, nor has there been anything said or done by me, which could be construed into a meaning, that I wished to remove you from my Table.

When there were four Officers belonging to the guard, the number was too great to have them all there; when they were reduced to two, I refused to encrease them, because those two might always be there, and this ever since has been my design and expectation, which is now repeated to you, lest misconception, or misinformation shou'd be the cause of your present separation. After having made this explanation, I shall add, that if it is your choice to follow the Majors example, it rests altogether with yourself to do so. I am, etc.⁵⁴

To JONATHAN WILLIAMS⁵¹

Morristown, April 15, 1780.

Sir: Your Letter of the 15th. of Feby. accompanying a case of Margeaux wine, came safe to hand. My thanks are offered for both, and I wish these may be as acceptable as the terms in which the Wine was presented, are polite; I shall then have made the return which seems most agreeable to your wish, altho' it will be far short of the sense I entertain of the obligation. I am, etc.⁵²

54. "Letter Book" copy.

51. United States Commercial Agent at Nantes, France.

52. This letter is found in Washington's "Letter Book," no. 5, P. 7.

To BENJAMIN HARRISON¹⁰

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New Windsor, March 21, 1781.

My Dr. Sir: Upon my return to this place last night, I met your private and friendly letter of the 25th. of February. I do not delay a moment to thank you for the interesting matter contained in it, and to express my surprize at that part which respects a pension for my mother.¹¹

True it is, I am but little acquainted with her *present* situation, or distresses, if she is under any. As true it is, a year or two before I left Virginia (to make her latter days comfortable, and free from care) I did, at her request but at my own expence, purchase a commodious house, garden and Lotts (of her own choosing) in Fredericksburg, that she might be near my Sister Lewis, her only daughter; and did moreover agree to take her Land and negroes at a certain yearly rent, to be fixed by Colo. Lewis and others (of her own nomination) which has been an annual expence to me ever since, as the Estate never raised one half of the rent I was to pay. Before I left Virginia, I answered all her calls for money; and since that period, have directed my Steward to do the same. Whence her distresses can arise therefore, I know not, never having received any complaint of his inattention or neglect on that head; tho' his inability to pay my own taxes, is such I know, as to oblige me to sell negroes for this purpose; the taxes being the most unequal (I am told) in the world, some persons paying for things of equal value, four times, nay ten times, the rate that others do. But putting these things aside, which I could not avoid mentioning, in exculpation of a presumptive want of duty on my part; confident I am that she has not a child that would not divide the last sixpence to relieve her from *real* distress. This she has been repeatedly assured of by me: and all of us, I am certain, would feel much hurt, at having our mother

10. Then Speaker of the Virginia House of Delegates.

11. "Some Gentn. of the last Assembly proposed to apply to that body for assistance to your mother, who they said was in great want, owing to the heavy taxes she was oblig'd to pay; I took the liberty to put a stop to this supposing you would be displeased at such an

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application, I make no doubt but the assembly would readily grant the request, and it now only rests with you to say whether it shall be made or not.”— *Harrison to Washington*, Feb. 25, 1781. Harrison's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

a pensioner, while we had the means of supporting her; but in fact she has an ample income of her own.

I lament accordingly that your letter, which conveyed the first hint of this matter, did not come to my hands sooner; but I request, in pointed terms if the matter is now in agitation in your assembly, that all proceedings on it may be stopped, or in case of a decision in her favor, that it may be done away, and repealed at my request.

I must defer answering your public Letter, 'till the next post. This is written in much haste to go by the present mail, which is on the point of closing. The measures I had taken previous to the date of your letter (for the reduction of Arnolds corps) were, you may be assured, every thing that was possible, in my circumstances, to do. If the States *will* not, or *cannot* provide me with the means; it is in vain for them to look to me for the end, and accomplishment of their wishes. Bricks are not to be made without straw. As our eyes are turned to your quarter for interesting events, we have few occurrences of moment here, none pleasing. I shall only add an expression of my sincere concern for the damage and losses I hear you have sustained by that arch traitor, Arnold, and my assurances of being,

&c.¹²

To BENJAMIN DULANY

Mount Vernon, November 17, 1781.

Sir: I learn from Mr. Lund Washington, that the Land formerly belonging to Mr. Manley¹³ is again about to be offered for sale, and that you and I are like to be the only competitors in

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the purchase of it. That I often treated with Mr. Manley in his lifetime, and since his death with his Executors

12. The text is from the "Letter Book" copy, which was made after 1783 from the draft, which was afterwards presumably destroyed

13. Harrison Manley.

for that Tract, is a fact, which cannot be unknown to you: equally true is it, that if the Land is exposed to public sale, I shall bid for it, as far as I think it is worth, but no farther. And as men set different values upon the same thing, according to the lights in which it strikes them, and their own mode of estimating its value; it is not at all unlikely but that you may be the purchaser. In the present case however, I ever was, and still am willing, to give the full value of the Land; and as a proof of it, should have no objection to the price being fixed by three honest and judicious men, to be indifferently chosen. this I would give.

Having premised this thing, the intention of this Letter is to make you a proposition, and explain my motives for it; which, if acceded to, may smooth every difficulty, and prove convent lent and beneficial to all parties. It is to purchase the reversion of your Land in this neck, at the same time I make that of Mr. Manleys, if it is for sale. You are, doubtless, well acquainted with the circumstance of this tract, held by Mrs. French; but as no man can have a more perfect knowledge of it, than I have; I think myself fully warranted, in asserting that in less than ten years from this date, there will be no support to the Plantation, and that without the aid of my woodland, it cannot be maintained.

If my reasons are asked, I will add; that, to say nothing of the Plantation itself, great part of which is old and much worn, the present fencing cannot last long; that one half of the plantation at this moment, is dependant upon me, for the means of enclosing it; that, though I have not a disposition to be unneighbourly, by depriving Mrs. French, or you,

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of the use of my fences, yet this may not be the case with those who follow me; that the wood-land for fire and timber bears

no proportion to the quantity of cleared Land; and, as has been observed before, will not support the plantation in these articles, but a few years longer, especially if all those long lines of fencing which are furnished by me should be shifted, as is very commonly the case when fields are changed; and, that to depend upon the fencing of another for inclosures, is working land upon a very uncertain tenure, and at too great a hazard to be warranted by prudence; as ill-nature, or even necessity may expose the crops.

That these facts are uncontrovertible, and the reasoning upon them conclusive, none can deny; I mention them to prove, First, that at the same time I discover an inclination to purchase the reversion of your Land, I know what value to set on it; and, secondly, as an indisputable evidence that sooner or later (if you cannot get some of my woodland) you will, for want of Timber and firing, be obliged to part with it to those who have it. And that this must be done to a very great disadvantage, when the period of that necessity is absolutely felt, and the land is more exhausted, is evident to common sense.

It may be asked, why, under these disadvantages, I would choose to be the purchaser? The answer is plain, and I shall candidly give it to you: For besides having timber to supply all the wants of your Land, it is my wish, although it sho'd not fall into my hands immediately, to have in expectation, by reversion, all the Lands in this neck; that I may without loss of time, proceed to the inclosing of it, by a large Ditch, and strong Post and rail fence on the outer boundary of it. This Sir, and the prospect of having the exclusive possession of the whole neck, I declare to you upon my honor, are my motives for buying. It is not the real want of Land, (for I have already more than I have hands to work) nor the extraordinary value of this tract that prompts me to the measure. From a full conviction that I cannot in the course of nature, remain long upon this theater, I have a desire to see such things as are within my reach, accomplished as soon as

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possible. On this principle it is, I shall go as far to purchase Mr. Manley's Land, as I can conceive it is worth. If the prospect of long life was before me, and I had a mind to play the politician it would be my interest to let Mr. Manleys land fall into your hands without a single bid for it on my part; because having a scarcity of fencing yourself, and his land, I believe, not a stick of timber upon it, it would so much increase the demand upon the little you have, as to involve at an earlier period, the consequence I have foretold.

Having dealt thus freely and frankly in describing the true situation and circumstances of these Lands, and my motives to purchase them, I shall conclude with repeating, that I will take the land of Mr. Manley at the price any three honest and judicious men, indifferently chosen, shall fix upon it. That I will do the same thing with respect to yours, If you incline to sell, or if you will fix the price yourself (having a just regard to the quality and circumstances of the Land) I will give it, without haggling; an allowance being made by men of judgment, conversant in these things, for Mrs. French's life, if she chooses to hold it.

I shall offer no apology for making you these proposals. My meaning is good, and my offers are generous; they will stand the test of examination; and it is my wish, that all the parties concerned (vizt. Mrs. Dulany, Mrs. French and Mr. Triplet Executor of Mr. Manley) may be consulted. If my proposals and observations are good, they will be struck with the force of them; if they are not, my mistake arises from viewing things in a wrong point of light.

I persuade myself, that there is too much liberallity in your way of thinking to suppose, that because I have frankly declared my motives for making these proposals,

and have made generous offers towards purchasing your Land; that I shall set no bounds to my prices, in order to obtain it. I as frankly declare that this is not my intention. I will give the full value, but no more; the whole tenour of my conduct hitherto, in this business, must have evinced this; and will more than probable convince Mr. Barry (or rather Mr. Wren his

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oracle) who was ever afraid to accept the price that was offered for his Land, lest more could be had; of the folly and impolicy of a narrow way of thinking, and give him cause, if I should withhold the same offer in future, to accompany it with repentance. I am &c.14

To BENJAMIN DULANY

Philadelphia, March 15, 1782.

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 28th. ulto. in answer to my letter from Mount Vernon in Novr., came to my hands by the last post, but not in time for me to reply by the return of it.

Delaying your answer 'till all parties had made up their minds upon the subject matter of that Letter, was more pleasing to me than an earlier communication which would have been indecisive; because it is much my wish (for reasons already given you) to bring the affair to an issue, as soon as it could be done, consistently.

If there are Lands for which Mrs. French and you are disposed to barter your tract on Dogue-run; and these lands can be had upon reasonable terms; it will in the end be the same thing to me as a direct purchase. I have such reliance

14. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

on the honor and judgment of the Gentlemen you have named, as to leave the valuation of the Lands, and the terms of exchange, entirely to them; and you may rest assured, will abide religeously by their determination, be it what it may.

Mr. Lund Washington, to whom I have transmitted a copy of your letter, will converse fully and freely with Mrs. French and you on this business, and consult you on the best mode of carrying it into execution. Whatever he does on my behalf shall be as binding upon me, as if the business had been transacted under my own hand and Seal.

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My best respects attend Mrs. French and Mrs. Dulany, in which Mrs. Washington joins me.
With great esteem, I am, etc.⁹⁹

To GOUVERNEUR MORRIS

Head Quarters, Newburgh, June 5, 1782.

General Washington's compliments to Mr. Governr. Morris.

If Mr. Morris shou'd have postponed his report, respecting the business entrusted to him by Mrs. Lloyd, 'till information could be had from hence, of the conveyance of her packet to Mr. White; the General prays him to present his compliments with it, and assure her, that the packet went by a returng. Flag in less than 24 hours after it came to his hands.

The General entreats Mr. Morris

99. "Letter Book" copy. Dulany's letter of February 28 (*Washington Papers*) says: "Mr. Manley's Land mentioned by you, is entirely at the disposal of Mr. William Triplett the Executor" and that Mrs. French would exchange her land on Dogue Run for land near where she lives. Lund Washington, Humphrey Peake, William Triplett, and Charles Little were the gentlemen named to settle the exchange. Dulany closed his letter with an illuminating remark: "Old Folks are not easily *satisfied* and especially Widows."

to add further, that nothing will give him more pleasure than to be honored with the commands of that Lady, whenever she shall find occasion to write to England. Her letters by Post, under cover to the General, will be more certain of a safe passage to New York, than by any other conveyance; and he shall be happy in becoming the means of facilitating her wishes.⁵¹

To MRS. RICHARD BENNETT LLOYD

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Head Qrs. Verplanks Point, September 4, 1782.

Madam: A mind susceptible of disappointments, and pained by suspense, can readily enter into the feelings of others, under similar circumstances. Be assured then, that your Letters shall suffer no delay, no disappointment in my hands. Nor will I keep you one moment in suspense, with respect to the receipt, or delivery of them.

Actuated by these motives, I have the honor to inform you, that the last Post brought me your favor of the 20th. ulto., and that the packet for Mr. White⁸² has passed my lines, for New York.

I pray you to be assured, that nothing which can contribute to the happiness of Mrs. Lloyd, will be deemed a trouble, by her Most hble. and Obedient servant.

PS. Be so good as to present me to Mr. Lloyd and let him know that his Letters to Major Murray,⁸³ and Mr. Watson went in, some days ago.⁸⁴

51. The text is from the "Letter Book" record.

82. Henry(?) White, of New York.

83. Major Daniel(?) Murray, of the King's American Dragoons.

84. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To RICHARD BENNETT LLOYD

Verplanks Point, October 2, 1782.

Sir: The packet herewith enclosed came by the last Flag from New York; and this, first post since, conveys it to you. I hope it contains Letters from England, and will give Mrs. Lloyd a pleasing account of her friends in that quarter.

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I do not know under what description of character Mr. White falls; but if he is of a class to render his departure from New York necessary, it may not be amiss for Mrs. Lloyd to pass her letters through some other channel than this, to prevent a circuitous rout and the delay and accidents consequent of such a removal. I take the liberty of offering this hint, from information (which I believe may be depended upon) that the Refugees and Loyalists are preparing to leave New York. Should he be of this number her letters under cover to him, will run a hazard of being lost. Mr. B. Watson,⁴⁷ or Major Murray⁴⁸ to whom you have already written on the subject will probably remain there while the enemy hold a footing in the city. I have the honor, etc.⁴⁹

To MRS. RICHARD BENNETT LLOYD

Verplanks Point, October 2, 1782.

Madam: The card I have the honor to enclose you will, I trust, give you a satisfactory account of the letters I forwarded to New York. I shall be happy if the packet which I now send to Mr. Lloyd, is productive of others from your friends in England.

47. Brook Watson, later lord mayor of London.

48. Maj. Daniel Murray, of the King's American Dragoons, British Provincial Troops.

49. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

On October 2 Humphreys wrote to Capt. John Pray: "You may be assured, nothing can be more acceptable to the Commander in Chief, than your continuing to obtain and forward the earliest and best Intelligence. The sailing or arrival of Fleets is an object of the first consequence." Humphreys's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

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If these conjectures should correspond with my wishes, I shall felicitate myself on the auspicious beginning of my Agency; and shall hope from that cause, (I have no other to rest it upon) that I may be honored with a continuance of your correspondence.

As I do not pretend to more disinterestedness than others, of your Admirers, I shall frankly declare to you, that this was a contemplated pleasure, when I proffered my services to you. No good proof, you will say, of generous, or ingenuous mind; but a very strong one it would seem, of what it would be a folly to deny; that selfish considerations are not without their influence on all our actions; and in spite of the boasted philanthropy of mankind, is found to be the governing spring of them.

As I am not exempt from this foible of humanity, the honestest part I can act is, to make an ample confession of it, at the same time that I assure you of the high respect and admiration of Madam, Yours etc⁴⁶

To LUND WASHINGTON

Newburgh, November 21, 1782.

Dear Lund: My last letter would have informed you, that I was disappointed in my application at Philadelphia, for money, and that I had given up all thoughts of purchasing Dows' Land. Since then, I have met with an offer of £2000 York Currency, for which, if I take it, I shall have to pay at the rate of 7 pr. Ct. per annum, interest.

Under this disadvantage and the difficulty I may experience in procuring money for repayment of the Loan, I would have you,

46. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

before any conclusion is come to with Dow & Comy., wait upon Mrs. French and Mr. Dulany for the last time, and know decidedly of them, whether, if a bargain is struck with

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Dow, they will make an even exchange *Tract for Tract* .33 You may inform them, as an apology for this application, that my reasons for requiring a definitive answer to this question, are, that no man is better acquainted with their Land than I am, so consequently, no person can be more fully convinced that £2000, is the full value of it; more indeed, than I ever expected it would cost me, in case I should become the purchaser. That as this sum is the price fixed upon Dow's land, and two or three purchasers are ready to strike; and the sale of it is only suspended on my account, from a disposition in Mr. Adam to give me the preference, I cannot avoid deciding thereon immediately. That as Mrs. French is unwilling to part with her Land without having the value of the two Tracts ascertained; it is an evidence in my mind, that she has reason to believe, hers will be highest valued. And lastly, if this should be the case, and I, in addition to the £2000 shou'd have a further sum to pay, it would advance the price of her Land in the neck so much beyond its real value, that I think it most prudent to forego the purchase of Dow's land as the means of affecting the exchange for hers, rather than run the hazard of paying too severely for the gratification of a mere fancy, (for it is no more) of putting the whole neck under one fence; as it is well known that I stand in no need of Land, or meadow for all my purposes.

In my letter of the 15th. of March last to Mr. Dulany, I observed: "If there are Lands for which Mrs. French and you are disposed to barter your tract on Dogue run, and these Lands can be had upon *reasonable terms* , it will in the end, be the same thing to me, as

33. This land was owned by the Alexandria firm of Robert Adam, Dow & Mclver. Mrs. Daniel (Penelope Manley) French, the mother-in-law of Benjamin Dulany, who, as a widow, had a life interest in the land which Dulany was to exchange "Tract for Tract" for the Adam, Dow & Mclver holding.

a direct purchase." Whether the price fixed upon Dow's land is reasonable or not; I, never having seen or heard of it, shall not take upon me to determine: but as it is much higher than I conceived any Tract of its size, adjoining the Land on which Mrs. French lives, could possibly be rated; I have no doubt of its being optional in me to purchase it or not,

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as my abilities and inclination shall decide. If Dows land contains half the improved, and improvable meadow which he says it does, and the difference could be determined by northern men, or men experienced in the worth of Grass Land, I should be sure of having it valued to considerably more than Mrs. Frenches; and this you will readily believe when I tell you, that improved meadow in this part of the country, many miles from any large town, sells from thirty to sixty pounds an acre. but my countrymen are too much used to corn blades and corn shucks; and have too little knowledge of the profit of grass lands to estimate Dow's meadow (if it is really good) at one quarter of its value; and as the rest of the tract may be but ordinary, or at best midling forest land, I should not be candid, if I did not declare my apprehension that this tract would be undervalued, not designedly, but for want of a practical knowledge of the advantages which are to be derived from meadows. I therefore think it more consistent with common prudence, if there cannot be an even exchange, to relinquish all hope of getting Mrs. French's land, than to run the hazards of paying infinitely more than the worth; especially, as I observed before, when I should only please my fancy, and that at the expence of my judgment, by getting in return Lands which are very much worn, without meadow, or ground capable of making it; little Timber or firewood, and both very inconvenient; decayed Fences, and some inclosures already dependent upon me for their security; and this too, when I am conscious, that Dow's meadow alone, if it is as large and as good as he represents it, would yield more nett profit annually, than the labor of a dozen negroes on Mrs. French's Farm would do, well managed.

I have been thus particular that you may know my ultimate determination, and the reasons upon which it is founded. You have nothing more to do therefore, than to ask Mrs. French and Mr. Dulany, simply, whether they will take Dow's land for theirs, *Tract for Tract* . If they agree to it, then strike the bargain with Dow & Co., get writings suitable to the purpose of all parties, executed, and draw upon me for the money. On the other hand, if they do not agree to it, acquaint Dow & Co. therewith and thank them for the preference given me; and inform me as soon as possible of the final conclusion of the business, that the

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Gentleman³⁴ who has offered me the money, may not be held in suspense. If I could get the money upon better terms than is offered, or if I knew how, or when I could replace it, I should have no objection to speculate in Dow's land, if it has the quantity of meadow described, for I am sure, so near Alexandria as it lies, it will become immensely valuable. Remember me kindly to your wife and all friends. I am, &c.³⁵

To LUND WASHINGTON

Newburg, November 21, 1782.

Dear Lund: The Letter which will be enclosed with this, will inform you, that since my letter by the last Post, I have had the offer of £2000 York Currency, and the terms of it. But before you strike any bargain with Dow & Co. for their Land, I would have you view it critically, and form your own judgment of the quality of it. To do this with any

34. Gov. George Clinton.

35. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

degree of accuracy, you must estimate the quantity of improved and improvable meadow; the nature of it; the quantity of Hay the first will yield; and the expence which will attend the cutting and making of it. How much of the latter can be added, and the cost of doing it; these things with a proper valuation of the other parts of the Tract, will shew you whether I shall be safe in giving the price asked. Or if Dow will pay such a rent as he once said he would give to whomsoever should be the purchaser, there need be no hesitation in that case neither; because the rent will amount to more than the interest of the money. If the price of this Land will not stand the test of the first mode of valuation; and the second, as I suspect was nothing more than a mere puff, and it shall appear that there is some collusion or finesse in Dow & Co. to extort a high price from me, I know of but one other method by which you can proceed with propriety and safety, and that is, to pursue the mode which I have pointed out in the letter herewith enclosed, and which I have made

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a sepearte one, that you may as from *yourself* , candidly let them see, consider, and determine on it.

If all these expedients fail, (as of your own motion) you might suggest the following proposition of it, vizt: Let the four persons, named by Mrs. French to ascertain the value of the two Tracts, agree upon the choice of a fifth, (an odd member is essential, in case of a diversity of opinion, to give a deciding voice; it is also necessary for another reason which I shall not name, but which is too obviouts not to strike you.) Let these five ascertain, after a thorough review of both Tracts, and due consideration given to the local situation of each, the advantages and disadvantages attending both, the quantity of the Land &c. &c., the value of each Tract, as a Tract. Let both parties be at liberty to agree or disagree to this valuation; but let Mrs. French and Mr. Dulany declare explicitly if they are satisfied with the valuation and difference which shall be adjudged by these five persons, that

it shall be a bargain on their part, if I agree to it, and you to give me immediate notice of it, that I may also say, yea, or nay.

You will have it in your power to inform Mr. Dulany, and may do it very truly, that I look upon £2000, to be a great price for his Land; that my wishes to obtain it, do not proceed from its intrinsic value, but from the motives I have candidly assigned in my other letter. That to indulge this fancy, (for in truth there is more fancy than judgment in it) I have submitted, or am willing to submit, to the disadvantage of borrowing as large a sum as I think this Land is worth, in order to come at it; but that, rather than go beyond this, as he and Mrs. French, for some reasons unknown to me, certainly expect their Land will be valued higher than Dow's; I choose to forego the purchase of the latter and relinquish thereby all prospect of obtaining his land, through that means.

As the Gentleman of whom I am to borrow the money will be held in suspence until I get a definitive answer from you; you will readily see the propriety of bringing the matter to issue, some way or another, as soon as possible, and giving me notice of it.³⁶ I am, &c.³⁷

To MRS. RICHARD BENNETT LLOYD

Newburg, November 26, 1782.

Madam: I have the honor to forward the enclosed Letters to you, and am respectfully your, etc.

36. See Washington's letter to Gov. George Clinton, Dec. 23, 1782, *post*.

37. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

On November 21 Tench Tilghman wrote to Lieut. Jonathan Rhea, of the Second New Jersey Regiment, directing him to join his regiment with his detachment, and to send Captain Schaiak (Schaak) to Dobbs Ferry, where he would be paroled and permitted to go into New York. Schaiak was the other British officer selected with Asgill for possible retaliation for the murder of Huddy. Tilghman's draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

P.S. I was upon the point of sealing the packet which contained the above when your favour of the 5th. inclosing letters for your friends in England was presented to me. I have put the latter under cover to Major Murray of New York, and have no doubt of their being in his hands in the course of a day or two, as it rarely happens that three succeeding days go over, without a Flag's passing between the advanced posts of the two armies.

I felt a pleasure at being informed by you, that your friends were all well, when you last heard from them by way of France. The letter which I now have the honor to send you, will I hope convey acco'ts equally pleasing, and of more recent date.⁴⁴ I am, etc.⁴⁵

44. Washington wrote also to Richard Bennett Lloyd (November 26), acknowledging his letters for England and stating that they had been forwarded along with Mrs. Lloyd's to Major [Daniel] Murray, of the King's American Dragoons, in New York, To Major Murray

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Washington also sent a brief covering note accompanying the letters. These letters are entered in the "Letter book."

45. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Newburgh, December 18, 1782.

Dear Sir: From a letter which I received from home, by the last post, I expect, tho' the matter was not finally concluded, to call upon your Excellency. for the £2000, (reckoning Dollars at six shillings) which you were so obliging as to assure me you could procure me the loan of.

When the Bargain is concluded,

which the Gentleman⁶⁸ who has charge of my business expected would be the week he wrote, he was to draw on me for the money. I, in consequence shall apply to Your Excellency.

With the greatest esteem, etc.⁶⁹

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Newburgh, December 23, 1782.

Dear Sir: By yesterday's Post, I received advice of the completion of the Bargain mentioned in my last letter to your Excellency., and that I should be drawn upon in a few days for the amount viz: £1880 Virginia currency, which differs from the currency of this State, one third; Dollars in Virginia. passing for no more than six shillings.

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I shall take the liberty of calling upon your Excellency with my Bond for this money in the course of two or three days, lest any impediment in the river should occasion a disappointment.

The Gentleman to whom the money is to be paid, wishes to have it lodged in Philadelphia. If your Excellency knows any person on whom dependance can be placed, that would receive the money *here* and give a draft for it *there* , I shall thank you for mentioning it, when I have the pleasure of seeing you. I am, etc.⁷⁹

68. Lund Washington.

69. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

79. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

***To JOHN AUGUSTINE WASHINGTON**

Newburgh, January 16, 1783.

My dear Brother: Since the letter which Bushrod delivered me in Philadelphia, I have received your favors of the 24th. of July from Westmoreland, and 12th. of Novr. from Berkley.

The latter gave me extreme pain. In Gods name how did my Brothr. Saml. contrive to get himself so enormously in debt ? Was it by purchases? By misfortunes? or shear indolence and inattention to business? From whatever cause it proceeded, the matter is now the same, and curiosity only prompts the enquiry, as it does to know what will be saved, and how it is disposed of. In the list

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of his debts did it appear that I had a claim upon him for the purchase money of the Land I sold Pendleton on Bullskin? I have never received a farthing for it yet, and think I have been informed by him that he was to pay it.

I have heard a favourable acct. of Bushrod, and doubt not but his prudence will direct him to a proper line of Conduct. I have given him my sentiments on this head; and perswade myself that, with the advice of Mr. Wilson,⁶² to whose friendship as well as instruction in his profession I recommended him and the admontion [*sic*] of others, he will stand as good a chance as most youth of his age to avoid the Vices of large Cities, which have their advantages and disadvantages in fitting a man for the great theatre of public Life.

I have lately received a letter from my Mother in which she complains much *of the Knavery of the Overseer at the little Falls Quarter* . that She says she can get nothing from him. it is pretty evident I believe, that I get nothing from thence, which I have the annual rent of between Eighty and an hundred pounds to pay. *The whole profit of the Plantation according to her Acct. is applied to his own use* , which is rather hard upon me as I had no earthly inducement to meddle with it but to comply with her wish, and to free her from care, this like every other matter of private concern, with me, has been totally neglected; but it is too much while I am suffering in every other way (and hardly able to keep my own Estate from Sale), to be saddled with all the expence of hers and not be able to derive the smallest return from it. She has requested that I would get somebody to attend to it. I must therefore desire the favor of you to take it under your care. I know of none in whose hands it can be better placed, to none to whom it can be less inconvenient, and who is more interested in the good managemt. of the Land. For as it lyes directly in your Route to Berkley, and in the Neighbourhood of our friends where you must always make a halt, it will give you very little additional trouble to provide an Overseer. Call upon him as you pass and repass, and set the annual Accts. with him, so as that I may have some

62. James Wilson.

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knowledge of his transactions and a certainty that whatever is made goes towards payment of the Rent. I shall by this Post inform my Mother⁶³ of this application to you, hoping you will find no difficulty in the undertaking.

While I am talking of my Mother and her concerns, I am impelled to mention somethings which has given, and still continues to give me pain. About two years ago a Gentleman of my acquaintance⁶⁴ informed me that it was in contemplation to 'move for a pension for her in the Virginia Assembly. That he did not suppose I knew of the measure, or that it would be agreeable to me to have it done; but wished to know my sentiments on it. I instantly wrote him that it was new and astonishing to me and begged that he would prevent the motion if possible, or oppose it if made; for I was sure she had not a Child that would not share the last farthing with her, and that would not be hurt at the idea of her becoming a Pensioner, or in other words receiving charity. Since *then* I have heard nothing of *that* matter; but I learn from very good authority that she is upon all occasions, and in all Companies complaining of the hardness of the times, of her wants and distresses; and if not in direct terms, at least by strong innuendos inviting favors which not only makes *her* appear in an unfavourable point of view but *those* also who are connected with her. That she can have no *real* wants that may not be supplied I am sure of; *imaginary* wants are indefinite and oftentimes insatiable, because they are boundless and always changing. the reason of my mentioning these matters to you is. that you may enquire into her real wants and see what is necessary to make her comfortable. If the Rent is insufficient to do this, while

63. The draft of this letter is not now found in the *Washington Papers*.

64. Benjamin Harrison. (See Washington's letter to Benjamin Harrison, Mar. 21, 1781, *ante*.)

I have anything I will part with it to make her so; and wish you to take measures in my behalf accordingly; at the sametime I wish you to represent to her in delicate terms the

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impropriety of her complaints and acceptance of favors even where they are voluntarily offered, from any but relations. It will not do to touch upon this subject in a letter to her, and therefore I have avoided it.

I do not believe that Sir Guy Carleton gives any countenance to those dirty piccaroons that infest your Rivers. If they are encouraged at all, it must be by the Admiral in whose Element they are; but I am rather inclined to think that they are Navigated by a Lawless Banditti who would rob both sides with equal facility, if they could do it with equal impunity.

With respect to Peace, we are held in a very disagreeable state of suspense; and shall I expect remain in it till sometime in February. My opinion of it however, has been uniformly the same since the death of the Marquis of Rockingham and appointment of the present Premier. It is thought nothing would be concluded till the meeting of the British Parliament in November, and if the influence of the Crown could prevent it, that it would not take place even then, if the Independence of this Country is to be the consequence of it....65

65. The omitted portions are identical with those in Washington's letter to Maj. Gen. John Armstrong, Jan. 10, 1783, *q. v.*

tho' the patience of them is equally thread bare it seems to be a matter of small concern to those at a distance. In truth if one was to hazard an opinion...65 that the Troops have ever yet been in.

I am very sorry to find that my Sister was in bad health. I suppose you are to be congratulated on your Gouty fit. My love in which Mrs. Washington joins is offered to you both, and to the rest of the Family. Compliments to all friends, with much sincerity I am etc.

65. The omitted portions are identical with those in Washington's letter to Maj. Gen. John Armstrong, Jan. 10, 1783, *q. v.*

To SAMUEL OGDEN

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Newburg, January 19, 1783.

Sir: In every conversation which I have had with you, on the subject of your Letters of the 31st. of last month, and 15th. inst: I was pointed; because I meant to deal candidly, in assuring you, it was not my intention to interest myself in behalf of any particular characters, that my motives were altogether public, and that if I could not take the business up upon the broadest basis, and while a defection on the part of the Refugees would be productive of advantages to the American cause, I would have no concern with it.

I am sorry to observe to you, that there appears to me, to be a delay on the part of the refugees or Loyalists, which is to be ascribed more to design than to necessity. It seems as if the object with them, was to get at the ultimatum of Great Britain before any decided steps should be taken with the country they have abandoned. This, Sir, you will do me the justice to acknowledge, is not only incompatible with my ideas, but to my express declaration to you: for the foundation on which I meant to build, and the *only* one upon which I could attempt to include, and recommend obnoxious characters, was their decision and influence; and the consequent advantages, while the intention of the enemy should be suspended and unknown.

The matter has already been near three months in agitation, and for aught that has come to my knowledge, is yet, in statu quo. One month, perhaps, a few days *now*, will unfold the designs of the British cabinet, or rather those of the Parliament. Let me ask then, if these be to prosecute the war vigorously, will the Gentlemen of that class, in whose behalf you particularly interest yourself (after their address to the King of Great Britain, which I have lately seen) give any aid to this country? If the determination is in favor of Peace, and Peace takes place on the terms which are expected, will not their inveterate

obstinacy, and present procrastination, put it out of the power of any man, to adduce an argument in their favour?

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I confess to you, Sir, their policy strikes me in so unfavourable point of view, that I no longer find an inclination to have any further agency in the business; for I am convinced from their address, and other circumstances, that they will never turn their faces towards this country, 'till the back of Great Britain is turn'd upon them. And that their delay proceeds from no other cause, than an intention to await the event of their application in another Quarter.

I have only to add, that I am the more confirmed in this opinion, upon observing that there is no idea held up in the copy of your Brothers Letter of the 3d. of December (the original of which never came to my hands), or in any of the subsequent ones, which gives the smallest insight into the business; or that will support me in any deduction favourable to it; the former of which is expressly contrary to the information I received from you at our last interview, as the Letter from your brother to you (which was to pass thro' my hands) was to be couched in such terms, as I should understand, tho' unintelligable to others, who shou'd be unacquainted with the business. Your own letter of the 31st. committed to the care of Mr. Morris was brought here a few days ago *only*, by a common soldier, who delivered it at the office, and retired before I had read, and cou'd enquire how he came by it, nor do I know at this hour. Upon the maturest consideration, Sir, I have so fully made up my judgment on this subject, that I could wish never to hear any thing farther upon it. I am etc.

I intended to have sent this letter by Mr. Faesch;⁷² but not havg. seen, or heard from him since he cross'd to the East side of the river, I commit it to the post.⁷³

72. John Jacob Faesch.

73. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To MRS. RICHARD BENNETT LLOYD

Newburgh, February 15, 1783.

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Madam: The Post of last week brought me the honor of your favor of the 20th. Decembr., enclosing two Letters for England, which were put under cover to Majr. Murray, and forwarded the next day, with public dispatches for New York.

Whether your Letter had lain in any of the Post Offices between this and Annapolis, or detained in your own hands any considerable time after it was written, is a matter you can determine better than I, but there was a lapse of more than seven weeks between the date and receipt of it.

I beg you to be persuaded Madam, that your Letters do not give me the smallest trouble: public business occasions such frequent intercourse between the two armies, by Flags, that if you were to write every week your letters would never remain seven days in my hands for want of a conveyance to New York. I mention this matter to remove every possible scruple you may have on the score of trouble, and to prove how unnecessary it is to apologize for what you are pleased to call a liberty. My compliments, in which Mrs. Washington joins, is presented to yourself and Mr. Lloyd, and, I have the honor etc.⁸¹

81. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To LUND WASHINGTON

Newburg, March 19, 1783.

Dear Lund: I did not write to you by the last Post. I was too much engaged at the time, in counteracting a most insidious attempt to disturb the repose of the army, and sow the seeds of discord between the civil and military powers of the continent, to attend to small matters. The author of this attempt, whoever he may be, is yet behind the curtain; and as conjectures might be wrong, I shall be silent at present. The good sense, the virtue, and patient forbearance of the army, on this, as upon every other trying occasion which has happened to call them into action, has again triumphed: and appear'd with more lustre than ever. But if the States will not furnish the supplies required by Congress,

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thereby enabling the Superintendant of Finance to feed, clothe, and pay the army; if they suppose the war can be carried on without money, or that money can be borrowed without permanent funds to pay the interest of it; if they have no regard to justice, because it is attended with expence; if gratitude to men, who have rescued them from the jaws of danger and brought them to the haven of Independence and Peace, is to subside, as danger is removed; If the sufferings of the army, who have borne, and forborne more than any other class of men in the Ud. States; expending their health; and many of them their all, in an unremitted service of near eight years in the field, encountering hunger, cold and nakedness, are to be forgotten; if it is presumed there is no bounds to the patience of the army; or that when peace takes place, their claims for pay due, and rewards promised may die with the military non-existence of its member. If such, I say, should be the sentiments of the States; and that their conduct, or the conduct of some, does but too well warrant the

conclusion, well may another anonymous addresser step forward, and with more effect than the last did, say with him, "You have arms in your hands, do justice to yourselves, and never sheath the sword, 'till you have obtained it." How far men, who labour under the pressure of accumulated distress, and are irritated by a belief that they are treated with neglect, ingratitude, and injustice in the extreme, might be worked upon by designing men, is worthy of very serious consideration. But justice, policy, yea common Sense, must tell every man that the creditors of the continent, cannot receive payments unless funds are provided for it, and that our national character, if these are much longer neglected, must be stamped with indelible infamy in every Nation of the world where the fact is known. I am etc.⁵⁵

To MRS. RICHARD BENNETT LLOYD

Tappan, May 7, 1783.

Madam: I am at this place on a conference with Sir Guy Carleton, previous to my coming here I was honored with your favor of the 18th. of last month.

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Mr. White³⁷ being among those characters which stand proscribed by the Laws of this State, can only be relieved by Legislature authority; and this is one of the points, which Congress by the Treaty is to recommend to the several States.

Mrs. White, and her children (who I am informed, propose to remain in New York) cannot, I persuade myself, be in danger of personal insult: your apprehensions therefore, on this score, may be calmed. In speaking this language, I not only give my own opinion, but the sentiments of some of the most respectable characters of this State (N. York).

55. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

On March 19 Washington wrote briefly to Capt. Robert Kirkwood. of the Delaware regiment, that he had approved the arrangement of that battalion. This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

37. Henry(?) White, a member of the royal council of New York. He went to England in 1783.

With compliments to Mr. Lloyd, I have the honor, etc.³⁸

To LUND WASHINGTON

June 11, 1783.

[Extract]

I do not blame you for the wages which you gave Evans;³ I have no doubt of your having engaged him upon as good terms as you could, and as it was my wish to have the work forwarded, this was all I had a right to expect.

In one of your letters (speaking of the difficulty of getting workmen) you recommend it to me to engage some of the Enemy who were prisoners with us; many of whom you

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say are good workmen. Why, let me ask, when they hired themselves by the authority of Congress, and, comparatively speaking, were in your own neighbourhood, would you not do this for me? None of them were within 300 miles of me, and most of them were within from 55 to 80 miles of you. But you seem to have had an unconquerable aversion to going from home; one consequence of which, is, I expect I shall lose all my rents; for in a letter, I have lately received from my brother John in Berkeley, are these words; "I fear you are suffering *greatly* in your rents, as I am informed many of the Tenants are gone into the Western country; and understand there are many years arrears of rent due to you." In divers Letters, at divers times in the course of the three or four last years, have I mentioned this matter to you, and the necessity of visiting

38. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

3. John Evans.

them; but cannot find by any of your letters, that you have ever been amongst them more than once; and then I believe only partially. I expect also, that all the money I have expended on the Mill on Yohoghaney, and all the property which has been put into the hands of Gilbert Simpson will be sunk for want of *proper* endeavours to bring him to account. But if your own wages, since the charge of them in the Acct. rendered at Valley Forge, has not been received by you in the specific articles of the Crop; which does not appear by the Accots. you have lately rendered to me; I shall be more hurt, than at any thing else, to think that an Estate, which I have drawn nothing from, for eight years, and which always enabled me to make any purchase I had in view, should not have been able for the last five years, to pay the manager: And that, worse than going home to empty coffers, and expensive living, I shall be encumbered with debt. It is disagreeable to me, because I dare say it will be so to you, to make these observations; but as my public business is now drawing to a close, I cannot avoid looking towards my private concerns, which do not wear the most smiling countenance.

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I am sorry that Barry's Land has at last slipped thro' my fingers . If the purchaser made it with a view to *rent* it to me, he shall be disappointed; nor shall any *Tenant* , or *himself* , if he proposes to live on it, reap the *smallest* benefit from my fencing and other improvements; without which, the place is of no value to any but me. This the purchaser must have known, and as his aim must have been to take advantage of my wishes to add this small piece of Land (surrounded as it is) to my Tract; let him abide the consequence of his interference; especially as it was well known, I wanted to take no advantage of Barry, having offered to leave the price to three *disinterested* men, of his own choosing, to fix. I am, etc.⁴

4. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

***To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON**

Newburgh, August 12, 1783.

Dear Sir: I have received a call from Congress to repair to Princeton; whether for any special purpose, or generally to remain there till the definitive Treaty shall arrive, the resolve is not expressive. I mean therefore, if the intention of that body is not more fully explained in a few days, to go prepared for the latter so soon as I can adjust matters here, and Mrs. Washington's health (for at present she is exceedingly unwell) will allow her to undertake the Journey.

As a measure of this kind will remove me to a distance and may for a considerable time separate us, and prevent frequent personal Interviews; I should be much obliged to you for intimating to me, before I go, what will be necessary for me to do respecting our purchase of the Saratoga Springs. I have money now by me, and shall, at any time, be ready to answer your call for this purpose. As I could wish also to lay myself out for the other matters we conversed upon, I should be glad, if, at your liesure, you would favor me with a general view of the plan in contemplation, and of the Agency I am to have in it; that I may

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not, in the *one thing needful* , be involved beyond my abilities; or caught unprepared if the purchase is within the compass of my means.

I do not take my leave of you at this time, because I will, by some means or other, contrive to see you and Mrs. Clinton before I leave this place, whether I go for a long or a short interval. In the mean while with great truth and sincerity I am etc.

[N.Y.P.L.]

To ROBERT AND WILLIAM LEWIS¹⁰

Rocky Hill, near Princeton, September 6, 1783.

Gentn: In Bradfords Paper¹¹ of the 30th. Ult^o., I perceive an anonymous advertisement of a person who wants employment as a miller, referring to you for his character. If this is such, as in *all* points of view I could approve, it is very likely I might employ him at my Mills in Virginia (ten miles from Alexa.) My present Miller¹² who has lived with me thirteen or fourteen years; and who perhaps understands the manufacture of wheat, as well as any miller upon the Continent; and who, I believe is also an honest man; is become so unfit for the trust reposed in him by his addiction to liquor, which not only keeps him intoxicated many days upon a stretch, but absent also from the Mills, that however reluctantly I do it, I shall be induced to part with him, if I can meet with a man who could bring me *ample* testimonials of his skill, his honesty, his sobriety and Industry.

These qualities must be well ascertained before I would employ any man; as I have no other objection, than what I have mentioned to my present Miller; who, besides being an excellent miller, is equally a good Millwright, and Cooper.

I work two pair of Stones, one pair of which are Frenchburr, employed in the merchant business. The Mill house is of Stone, large and commodious, the dwelling house, which

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is convenient, is within thirty yards of it; and has a Garden enclosed adjoining. A Cooper's Shop is also near, and the whole convenient to tide water.

Having been thus particular, with respect to my Mills, and my wants, I shall thank you Gentn. for a full and unreserved character of the anonymous advertiser, and the terms on which he would engage. If you think this man wou'd not answer my purpose, or shou'd he be engag'd, do you know of any one who, from what I have here said, would? Your answer to this letter as soon as convenient will very much oblige Gentn., Yr. etc.¹³

10. Of the firm of Robert Lewis & Sons, merchants of Philadelphia.

11. The *Pennsylvania Journal and Weekly Advertiser*, of Philadelphia. The Lewis firm wrote to Washington Apr. 5, 1785, regarding a miller by the name of Joseph Davenport. This letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

12. William Roberts.

13. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To LUND WASHINGTON

Rocky Hill, September 20, 1783.

Dear Lund: Mrs. Custis³³ has never suggested in any of her Letters to Mrs. Washington (unless ardent wishes for her return, that she might then disclose it to her, can be so construed) the most distant attachment to D. S.;³⁴ but if this should be the case, and she wants advice upon it; a Father and Mother, who are at hand, and competent to give it, are at the same time most proper to be consulted on so interesting an event. For my own part, I never did, nor do I believe I ever shall give advice to a woman who is setting out on a matrimonial voyage; first, because I never could advise one to marry without her own consent; and secondly, because I know it is to no purpose to advise her to refrain, when she has obtained it. A woman very rarely asks an opinion or requires advice on such

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an occasion, 'till her resolution is formed; and then it is with the hope and expectation of obtaining a sanction, not that she means to be governed by your disapprobation, that she applies. In a word, the plain english of the application may be summed up in these words; "I wish you to think as I do; but if unhappily you differ from me in opinion, my heart, I must confess is fixed, and I have gone too far *now* to retract."

If Mrs. Custis should ever suggest any thing of this kind to me, I will give her my opinion of the *measure* , not of the *man* , with candour, and to the following effect. I never expected you would spend the residue of your days in widowhood; but in a matter so important, and so interesting to yourself, children and connexions; I wish you would make a prudent choice; to do which, many confiderations are necessary; such as the family and connexions of the man, his fortune (which is

33. Mrs. John Parke Custis.

34. Dr. David Stuart, of Fairfax County, Va. He was the son of Rev. William Stuart, of Stafford County, and was educated in Scotland and France. He later became one of the Commissioners of the District of Columbia.

not the *most* essential in my eye), the line of conduct he has observed, and disposition and frame of his mind. You should consider, what prospect there is of his proving kind and affectionate to you; just, generous and attentive to your children; and, how far his connexions will be agreeable to you; for when they are once formed, agreeable or not, the die being cast, your fate is fixed. Thus far, and no farther I shall go in my opinions. I am etc.³⁵

To BUSHROD WASHINGTON

Rocky Hill, September 22, 1783.

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Dear Bushrod: With this you will receive the letter of your Aunt Lewis,³⁷ to me. Altho' I believe the ground she is proceeding upon, has more of the ideal than real advantages, which she expects from it, yet I have no objection to the experiments being made, and pray you to pursue the dictates of her letter, and communicate to me the result as soon as the necessary enquiries are made.

Let me beg of you to make enquiry of some of the best Cabinet makers, at what price, and in what time, two dozen strong, neat and plain, but fashionable, Table chairs (I mean chairs for a dining room) could be had; with strong canvas bottoms to receive a loose covering of check, or worsted, as I may hereafter choose.

Since I have already chalked out so much business for you, I will go further, and ask you to enquire at what prices the several kinds of French and other wines (Maderia excepted, of which I have enough) of good quality, can be bought; and whether

35. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

37. Betty Lewis. Her letter is not now found among the *Washington Papers*.

the stock on hand, or the quantity expected, is said to be large. Give me the prices also of imported Nuts and Fruits of different kinds, by the measure, weight, jarr or otherwise as they are usually sold. Also of Olives, Capes Oil, Anchovies &ca. As you are young in this business, take some Mentor as a guide to your enquires. I wish also that you would enquire, if there is any blue and white table china, to be had in settes and the price. Table china frequently comes in packed up in compleat setts, amounting to a gross, or gross and a half of pieces, all kinds included.

There is another thing likewise which I wish to know, without having it known for whom the enquiry is made; and that is, whether French plate is fashionable and much used in genteel houses in France and England; and whether, as we have heard, the quantity in Philadelphia is large, of what pieces it consists, and whether among them, there are

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Tea urns, Coffee pots, Tea pots, and other equipage for a tea table, with a tea board, Candlesticks and waiters large and small, with the prices of each. These enquiries you may make in behalf of a friend, without bringing my name forward, 'till occasion (if a purchase shou'd happen) may require it.

Give me information upon these several matters, as soon as you conveniently can; and return my Sisters Letter, that I may the better know how to write to her. With great regard, I am, etc.³⁸

38. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To CLEMENT BIDDLE

Rocky Hill, October 2, 1783.

Dear Sir: On the 20th. of last month, I wrote you a few lines, and sent therewith Eight hundred Dollars in Bank-Notes, which (tho' I have heard nothing from you since), I hope got safe to hand.

Such articles of the Linen kind as yet remain unpurchased (of the Invoice transmitted to you the 15th. of May last) I wish to have postponed 'till Mrs. Washington comes to Philada., which will be in a few days, that she may please herself in the quality. The Nails and paint may go by the Vessel which you say is bound to Alexandria: as the other things also may, if they are *already* bot. or can be bought in time after she gets there.

Altho' I am fully persuaded you endeavoured to act for the best, in the purchase of the Blankets and Ticklenburg (the cost of which you have rendered me) yet I cannot help observing that the prices greatly exceeded what I was led to believe they could be had for; and what I have been told by some Gentn. since, they themselves actually bought for at the Vendue's; where very good Osnabs. sold from 9d. to 11d. The largest and best kind of (striped) Dutch Blankets that I ever imported, never cost me more than seventy or

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seventy five shillings the piece (of I think 16 Blankets). 10/9 then, by the quantity of 200, would have been esteemed, I conceive, a handsome profit, in the most flourishing period of the trade. It was, I confess, at the Vendue's that I expected the purchases would have been made for me; for I never supposed, nor was it to be expected, that such men as Abel James would sell goods at low prices; the needy trader I knew would be driven to it from necessity, and Linens we have been told have sold amazingly low: indeed I myself have seen, in shirts belonging to Gentr. of Congress some at 4/. Penna. Cy., equal to what I have formerly imported at 3/6. and 4/. Sterlg. per yard. Mrs. Washington joins me in best wishes for Mrs. Biddle and yourself, and I am, etc.⁶⁶

66. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL RICHARD VARICK

Rocky Hill, October 2, 1783.

Dear Sir: Enclosed are my private letters for registering. As fast as they are entered, return them to me by the weekly mail, because references to them are frequently necessary; do the same thing with the public Letters.

As the Letters which are handed to you now, contain sentiments upon undecided points; it is more than ever necessary that there should be the strictest guard over them, and the most perfect silence with respect to their contents. Mr. Taylors⁶⁴ prudence will, I persuade myself, induce him to pay particular attention to both. I am, etc.⁶⁵

***To LIEUTENANT COLONEL TENCH TILGHMAN**

Rocky Hill, October 2, 1783.

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Dear Sir: The Chevr. de la Luzerne, hearing me the other day enquire after Claret, informed me that he had a quantity of it at Baltimore, more than he wanted, and would spare me some. I am, in consequence, to have two or three Hhds of this Stock.

I requested him to direct his Corrispondent at that place, to commit them to your care, on the Supposition that you are a Resident of Baltimore, and I have to beg your attention to them accordingly.

As you know how liable Liquors are to be Adulterated by common Boatmen,

64. George Taylor, jr.

65. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

or common Waggoners; and that it is the *quality only* which constitutes the Value, I perswade myself you will put this Wine into the charge of some person who will be responsible for the safe transportation of it. The Chevr. assures me that it is old Wine, and of the first quality. I hope to drink a Glass of it with you at Mount Vernon 'ere long; and for this, and other reasons, wish it may precede my arrival, at that place. accompany it, if you please, with a line to Mr Lund Washington.

Why have you been so niggardly in communicating your change of condition to us? or to the World? By dint of enquiries we have heard of your Marriage; but have scarcely got a *confirmation* of it yet. On the presepumption however that it is so, I offer you my warmest congratulations and best wishes for the enjoyment of many happy years; in both which Mrs. Washington joins me very cordially.

She is on the eve of setting out for Virginia before the Weather and roads get bad. I shall follow as soon as the Definitive Treaty arrives, or New York is Evacuated by our Newly acquired friends. On the first there is little said. Of the latter a great deal, but scarcely the

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same thing by any two who come from there. The general opinion however is, that they will be gone by the last of this Month.

Present Mrs. Washington's and my Compliments to your Lady and Mrs. Carroll, and be assured that I am, etc.⁶⁷

67. From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by George A. Ball, of Muncie, Ind.

To FRANCIS MOORE

Princeton, October 11, 1783.

Sir: Your favor of the 25th. ulto. came to hand by Thursdays post. It meets my thanks for the obliging expressions with which the information, respecting the deceased Mrs. Savage, is conveyed.⁷⁹

I think you judged very properly in not sending the original Will of that Lady; whose Death, or rather the circumstances attending it, deserve much commiseration: she certainly meritted very different treatment from her husband, Dr. Savage.

If the Will is not lengthy, you would do me a favor, by transmitting me a copy of it. The original you will be so good as to retain in your hands, or deliver it to Mrs. Washington as she passes thro' Baltimore on her way to my house in Virginia. I am, etc.

To MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE

Princeton, October 12, 1783.

My Dear Marqs: While I thought there was a probability of my letters finding you in France, I wrote frequently to you there; and very long epistles too. My last was dated the 15th. of June; between that, and the letter which must have been handed to you by the Chevr. Chartellux, I addressed three others, under

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79. Mrs. Savage's first husband was the Rev. Charles Green.

the following dates, March 23d., April 5th., and May 10th. Subsequent to these I have been honored with your favor of the 19th. of April dated at the seat of the Marqs. de Castries; and of three more in June,⁸⁰ recommendatory of Doct: Bancroft,⁸¹ Monsr. de Baune, and Count Wengierski.⁸²

I should not have remained silent so long, had I not been in daily expectation of seeing you in this Country. The event My Dr. Marqs. which seems (by your last letters) to have been in some degree a let to this pleasure, will not I apprehend, ever take place. The late Secretary of foreign affairs (for at present there is none) with whom I have conversed confidentially on the subject of your wishes, as they are expressed in your favor of the 4th. of February, thinks, high as you really stand in the good opinion of Congress, and however great their inclination is to comply with your wishes, in almost every thing; yet, in *such a case as that*, it would be impracticable to obtain it, and for that reason impolitic to attempt it. Lest *he* should not have communicated these sentiments to you, motives of friendship have prompted *me* to do it without reserve. To add after giving this information, how much it is my wish to see you in a country which owes so much to your important services in the Cabinet, and in the Field; and how happy you would make your friends at Mount Vernon by considering that place as your home, would only be to repeat, what I persuade myself, you have long ago been convinced of: Nevertheless, I cannot forbear urging it.

With anxious expectations we have been upon the lookout, day after day these four months for the arrival of the Definitive Treaty of peace. In equal expectation have we been the last two of the evacuation of New York by the British forces. On the happening of either of these events, I have placed my retirement to the walks of private life, and look forward to the epoch with heart felt satisfaction: 'Till I get home and have time to look into the situation of my private concerns, which I already know are in a deranged state, and very much impaired;

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80. Not now found in the *Washington Papers*.

81. Dr. Edward Bancroft. He was secretary to the American Commissioners in France, and a spy in the employ of the British.

82. On October 18 Washington briefly acknowledged Luzerne's letter of October 7, respecting Count Wengiersky. The original of this letter is in the *Paris Archives, Aff. Etrang., Mems. et Docs., E. U.*, vol. 6.

I can form no plan for my future.

I have it in contemplation, however to make a tour thro' all the Eastern States, thence into Canada; thence up the St. Lawrence, and thro' the Lakes to Detroit; thence to lake Michigan by Land or water; thence thro' the Western Country by the river Illinois, to the river Mississippi, and down the same to New Orleans; thence into Georgia by the way of Pensacola; and thence thro' the two Carolina's home. A great tour this, you will say, probably it may take place no where but in imagination, tho' it is my *wish* to begin it in the latter end of April of next year; if it should be realized, there would be nothing wanting to make it perfectly agreeable, but your Company.

Congress have fixed upon the falls of Delaware for the residence of the sovereign power of these United States, and 'till a proper establishment can be made at it, and accomodations provided, they will hold their Sessions at (no place yet agreed on). By their desire I shall remain with them, 'till one of the events already mentioned takes place, and then shall bid a final adieu to public life.

I hope the Russians and Turks will accommodate their differences. I wish it from motives of universal benevolence, which I should be glad to see as extensive as the great Globe itself. And I wish it also, because the flames of War once kindled may draw in one power after another, 'till the regions most remote may feel the effects of it.

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The Dutch Minister,⁸³ after a passage of near 16 weeks, is just arrived at Philadelphia. Many foreigners are already come over to that and other places, some in the Mercantile line, some to make a tour of the Continent, and some (employed) no doubt to spy out the Land, and to make observations upon the temper and

83. Peter John Van Berckel.

disposition of its Inhabitants, their Laws, policy &ca.

No peace establishment is yet agreed on by Congress, but the opposition which was given by the Eastern States, to the half pay, or commutation of it for the officers, is begining to subside: it is to be hoped that everything will soon go right, and that the people will get into a proper tone of thinking again.

Mrs. Washington left me a few days ago for Virginia (before the weather and roads shou'd get bad). Otherwise I am sure she would unite most cordially with me in respectful compliments to Madame la Fayette, and congratulations on the passage of my namesake, thro' the small-pox. With every wish for your and her happiness, and with the most sincere friendship I am, etc.⁸⁴

To CHEVALIER DE CHASTELLUX

Princeton, October 12, 1783.

My dear Chevalier: I have not had the honor of a line from you, since the 4th. of March last, but I will ascribe my disappointment to any cause, rather than to a decay of your friendship.

Having the appearance, and indeed the enjoyment of peace, without a final declaration of it; I, who am only waiting for the ceremonials, or 'till the British forces shall have taken

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leave of New York, am placed in an awkward and disagreeable situation, it being my anxious desire to quit the walks of public life, and under the

84. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

shadow of my own vine, and my own Figtree, to seek those enjoyments, and that relaxation, which a mind that has been constantly upon the stretch for more than eight years, stands so much in need of.

I have fixed this epoch to the arrival of the Definitive Treaty, or to the evacuation of my country by our newly acquired friends. In the mean while at the request of Congress, I spend my time with them at this place, where they came in consequence of the riots at Philadelphia, of which you have doubtless (for it is not a very recent transaction) been fully apprised. They have lately determined to make choice of some convenient spot near the Falls of the Delaware for the permanent residence of the sovereign power of these United States; but where they will hold their Sessions 'till they can be properly established at that place, is yet undecided.

I have lately made a tour through the Lakes George and Champlain as far as Crown point; then returning to Schenectady, I proceeded up the Mohawk river to Fort Schuyler (formerly Fort Stanwix), and crossed over to the Wood Creek which empties into the Oneida Lake, and affords the water communication with Ontario. I then traversed the country to the head of the Eastern Branch of the Susquehanna and viewed the Lake Otsego, and the portage between that lake and the Mohawk river at Canajohario. Prompted by these actual observations, I could not help taking a more contemplative and extensive view of the vast inland navigation of these United States, from maps and the information of others; and could not but be struck with the immense diffusion and importance of it; and with the goodness of that Providence which has dealt her favors to us with so profuse a hand. Would to God we may have wisdom enough

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to improve them. I shall not rest contented 'till I have explored the Western Country, and traversed those lines (or great part of them) which have given bounds to a New Empire. But when it may, if it ever shall happen, I dare not say, as my first attention must be given to the deranged situation of my private concerns which are not a little injured by almost nine years absence and total disregard of them. With every wish for your health and happiness, and with the most sincere and affectionate regard, I am etc.⁸⁵

To COMTE DE ROCHAMBEAU

Princeton, October 15, 1783.

With what words my Dear Count shall I express to you the sensibility of a heart which you have warmed by the flattering sentiments that are conveyed in your Letters of the 14th. of April and 13th. of July? Your Nation is entitled to all my gratitude. Your sovereign has a claim to my highest admiration, respect and veneration; and those Individuals of it who have been my companions in war, to my friendship and Love. Can it be surprizing then, that I should possess an ardent desire to visit your Country? But, as I observed to you in my Letter of the 20th. of May, it is not yet clear to me, that I shall ever have it in my power to accomplish my wishes. My private concerns have been very much deranged by an absence of more than eight years, and require particular attention to put them in order.

Congress, from causes which you

85. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

have doubtless heard spoken of, and more than probably have seen published; are *now* sitting at this place. They have fixed upon the Falls of Delaware (at or near Trenton) for their permanent residence, and I suppose will prepare as soon as possible, to establish themselves at it. I have, at their request, been with them near two months, and shall remain with them 'till the Definitive Treaty arrives, or 'till New York is evacuated by the British forces, when I shall bid a final adieu to public Life, and in the shade of retirement

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look back on our past toils, with grateful admiration of that beneficent Providence which has raised up so many instruments, to accomplish so great a revolution as the one you have had a share in bringing about.

When either of these events will certainly happen, it is difficult for *me* to determine; the first, we have been in anxious expectation of for four or five months; and of the latter not less than two. The other day, Genl. Carleton sent me word, that in November he should evacuate the post of New York; and that it might happen by the 20th. of the month: but we have already experienced so many disappointments, that I shall scarcely believe they *are going* ,, untill they are *without Sandy hook* .

In the course of the last summer I made a tour, thro' Lakes George and Champlain, as far as Crown point; thence I went up the Mohawk river to Fort Stanwix, and over to the Wood-Creek and on my return viewed the Otsego-lake, which is the head of the Eastern branch of the Susquehanna. We have nothing new in this quarter, except the arrival of Mr. Van Berkel the Dutch Minister and a number of foreigners from different parts of the Globe, some to Trade, some for Amusement, and some I presume to spy out the Land. It is unnecessary, I am sure, to repeat to you the

assurances of esteem, respect etc.⁸⁶

***To COMTE DE NOAILLES**

Princeton, October 15, 1783.

Dear Sir: Within these few days, I have had the honor to receive your favor of the 25th. of April from Paris. My heart will do me greater justice than my Pen, when I attempt the expression of my sensibility for your polite congratulation on the happy termination of the War; and for the favorable sentiments you have expressed of my instrumentality in effecting the Revolution.

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It is to the magnanimous Sentiments of your Prince, the generous aids of your Nation, and to the gallantry of yourself, and the rest of her Sons, that we are to ascribe, in a very great degree, the happy revolution which is to fill an important page in history. As you have acted a conspicuous part on the American theatre, let it be an inducement to you, to visit the rising Empire which your own endeavors have assisted to bring into existence. And let me in that case, express to you how happy I should be to see you at my Cottage in Virginia, there to repeat to you the assurances which I now give, of the sincere esteem, regard etc.⁸⁸

86. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

88. From a photograph of the original kindly furnished by the late Thomas F. Madigan, of New York City.

To DUC DE LAUZUN

Princeton, October 15, 1783.

My Dr. Duke: With grateful affection I received the honor of your Letter of the 11th. of June from Brest; and rejoiced as much at the ease and quickness of your passage, as at the favorable reception you have met with from your Prince.

Be pleased, on these occasions, to accept my warmest congratulations and best wishes.

It gave me pleasure to find, that you held in remembrance the promise you made of visiting me in Virginia. I will put a Seal to the ratification of it, and place it among my choicest deposits 'till you come to redeem it.

New York is not yet evacuated, nor is the Definitive Treaty arrived. Upon the happening of either of these events, I shall bid a final adieu to a military life, and in the shade of retirement ruminate on the marvellous scenes that are passed; and in contemplating the

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wonderful workings of that Providence which has raised up so many instruments, and such powerful Engines (among which your nation stands first) to over throw the British pride and power, by so great a revolution.

Congress are sitting at this place, the cause of which you have doubtless heard. The Falls of Delaware (at or near Trenton) is made choice of for their permanent residence. At their desire, I have been with them, near two months and shall remain with them, 'till one of the events before mentioned shall give me a dismissal. In the course of last summer I visited lakes George and Champlain (as far as Crown point), the Mohawk river to Fort Stanwix, thence over to Wood Creek; and on my return traversed the country to the Susquehanna and viewed the Otsego Lake, which is at the head of it. I shall not be satisfied 'till I do the same by the exterior boundary of the United States,

but when, if ever I shall be able to accomplish these wishes, is a matter of too much uncertainty for me to decide upon, at this moment. With great consideration, etc.⁸⁹

To ROBERT LEWIS & SONS

Rocky Hill, October 16, 1783.

Gentn: Since I was favored with your letter of Sept., I have received the enclosed from Mr. Lund Washington (who has charge of my business in Virginia) to Colo. Biddle; it was accompanied with the following paragraph to me: "William Roberts would not enter into such articles as I wanted him to sign, altho' he has for several years (since he lived here) signed much the same; he says he is convinced from what is past, he never shall quit drinking, notwithstanding his endeavours to do it; and the restrictions he is laid under in these articles are such that it is not in his nature to keep them; and he has no right (he acknowledges) to be indulged any longer in the manner he has been; therefore he will rent a Mill, and work for himself, being determined never to hire himself again.

I wrote the enclosed to go by this post to Colo. Biddle, who has frequently desired me, if I had anything in which he could do for you, or myself, that I would freely command him.

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But I have thought, that you probably might have some other acquaintance on whom you might choose to rely for the transaction of such a piece of business, in preference to him, therefore I send the letter under cover to you, that you may act as you shall think best in the matter”.

89. From the “Letter Book” copy in the *Washington Papers*.

As I think you are much better judges of the qualifications necessary to constitute a good Miller, and have it more in your power to procure one, than Colo. Biddle, I send the Letter which Mr. Washington had written to him, to you, and pray your assistance in this business.

The time being short, no delay can be admitted; I submit to you therefore, the propriety of advertising for a man, which will answer my purpose; the wages I will leave entirely to yourself; or, in other words, I would *give* the highest that are *given* , for such a Mill as mine is described to be; or I would even give *more* , to get a *good* and *skillful* man who understands, and will do his duty, without giving me any plague or trouble. There is no Miller in America I would exchange Roberts for, if he could be broke of his abominable drunken and quarrelsome frolicks; the opinion I entertain of his skill, and an unwillingness to part with him, have been the inducements to my keeping him fourteen years, when I ought not to have borne with him for the last seven of them.

Having now committed this business absolutely to your management, I shall confide in your endeavours to serve me, unless you forbid me to do so; and as letters sometimes indeed too often, miscarry, I shall thank you for a single line, informing me that this is got safe to your hands. I will make no apology for this trouble, but I will give you strong assurances of my disposition to make any return in the power of Gentn. Your, etc.

P. S. Any expence which may be incurr'd in this business, I will chearfully pay.⁹⁵

95. From the “Letter Book” copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To MAJOR PIERRE CHARLES L'ENFANT

October 30, 1783.

Sir: Herewith you will receive 250 Dollars in bank notes, with which you will please to procure for me eight of the bald eagles. One of which if there shall appear (upon conversing¹⁶ with gentlemen, better acquainted in these matters than I am) no impropriety in it, or any deviation from the intention of the Order. May not only be finished in a masterly manner but ornamented in an elegant, tho' not in a costly Stile.¹⁷ If, on the contrary, it should be thought best to have no difference between any of them, in the decorations, (for I do not mean to depart in the smallest degree from the forms of the Order) then seven will be sufficient for me, as the ornamental one would only have been used on extra occasions.

I have in the Letter you are charged

16. The "Letter Book" has "canvassing."

17. In the "Letter Book" the words "elegant" and "stile" are underscored.

with to the Marquis de la Fayette, requested him to send me, by the earliest opportunity, a sett of Silver plated ware; but as there is not only a possibility but a probability, that he may have left Paris for this country before you get there, or may be absent on some other occasion, I beg, in that case, that you would open my letter to him, and comply with the contents of it, if you can do it conveniently. Wishing you a pleasant passage, and a prosperous voyage. I am, etc.¹⁸

To MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE

Princeton, October 30, 1783.

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My Dr. Marqs. As I persuade myself it would rather give you pain than pleasure, were I to apologize for any liberty I might take with you, which does not exceed the rules of propriety and friendship; I shall proceed without further hesitation or ceremony to beg the favour of you to send me of the plated wares (or what formerly used to be called French plate) the articles contained in the enclosed memorandm. to which, as I am not much of a connoisseur in, and trouble my head very little about these matters, you may add any thing else of the like kind which may be thought useful and ornamental, except Dishes, plates and Spoons, of the two first I am not inclined to possess any, and of the latter I have a sufficiency of every kind.

18. From a copy by Toner in the Toner Transcripts in the Library of Congress made from the original then in the papers of Thos. A. Digges, of Maryland. The "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers* varies from the above in many verbal details.

I shall esteem it a very particular favor if you would let me have these things as soon as possible, by the first Vessel which may sail after they are ready either to Alexandria, Baltimore, Philadelphia or New York, the last, on account of the packets which are to sail twice in every month, might be the readiest conveyance to this Country, tho' it would not be so convenient for me afterwards. Nevertheless, (as I am desirous of getting the Plate, as soon as may be) I would rather have them sent to that place than wait for a conveyance to either of the others.

If you shou'd send these things to New York, be so good as to address them to Jacob Morris Esqr. (who now lives there) with a request that they may be forwarded to me by the stage, or any other ready and quick conveyance to Alexandria, or if this cannot be, then to hand them on to Colo. Biddle at Phila. who will, I am persuaded convey them from thence to me; as he would also do, if they should be sent to that place in the first instance directed to his care, by a Vessel bound to that Port. If they should be sent to Baltimore be pleased to direct them to the care of Colo. Tilghman, if there, or Saml. Purviance Esqr., if he is not.

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I have not My Dr. Marqs. sent by this conveyance, money for the purchase of these articles: the reason is, I am altogether unacquainted with the prices of them; but a bill shall be remitted to you the moment I am informed of the cost; in the mean while I am sure you will have no hesitation in becoming responsible to the workman for the payment.

Altho' I promise not to apologise for giving you trouble in these matters, yet I cannot forbear assigning my reasons for doing it in this particular instance.

1st. then, because I do not incline to send to England (from whence formerly I had all my goods) for any thing I can get upon tolerable terms elsewhere.

2d. Because I have no correspondence with any Merchants or artisans in France.

3d. If I had, I might not be able to explain

so well to them, as to you, my wants, who know our customs, taste and manner of living in America, and, 4th. Because I should rely much more upon your judgment and endeavours to prevent impositions upon me, both in the price and workmanship, than on those of a stranger.

I have only to wish, in the last place, that they may be packed in a proper (permanent) case, that will bear transportation in the first instance, and will be a proper repository afterwards when not in use, if it shou'd be found more convenient to keep them there. With best respects to Madame LaFayette, I am, etc.

A LIST OF PLATED WARE TO BE SENT

Every thing proper for a tea-table, and these it is supposed may consist of the following Articles: A Large Tea salver, square or round as shall be most fashionable; to stand on the Tea table for the purpose of holding the Urn, teapot, Coffee pot, Cream pot, China Cups and saucers &ca.

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A large Tea-Urn, or receptacle for the water which is to supply the tea pot, *at the table* . 2 large Tea pots, and stands for Ditto, 1 Coffee Pot and stand, 1 Cream Pot, 1 Boat or Tray, for the Tea spoons, 1 Tea-chest, such as usually appertains to tea or breakfast tables, the inner part of which, to have three departments, two for tea's of different kinds, the other for Sugar. If any thing else should be judged necessary it may be added, altho' it is not enumerated.

Also, Two large Salvers, sufficient to hold twelve common wine glasses, each.

Two smaller size Do for 6 wine glasses, each.

Two Bread-baskets, middle size.

A Sett of Casters, for holding, oil, Vinegar, Mustard &ca.

A Cross or Stand for the centre of the Dining table.

12 Salts, with glasses in them.

Eight Bottle sliders.

Six large Goblets, for Costers.

Twelve Candlesticks. Three pair of snuffers, and stands for them.

And any thing else which may be deemed necessary, in this way. If this kind of plated Ware will bear engraving, I should be glad to have my arms thereon, the size of which will, it is to be presumed be large or small in proportion to the piece on which it is engraved.²¹

21. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To CHARLES PETTIT

New York, December 2, 1783.

Dear Sir: I have been favored with your letter of the 28th. Ultio. The honor which the Merchants of Philada. have in contemplation to shew me,⁹⁶ is very flattering, and deserving of my best acknowledgments. I expect to leave this place on Thursday afternoon or Friday morning, and to be in Philada. on Monday: but as there may be an intervention of circumstances not altogether within my controul, I cannot speak positively to the day; and have only given this information in conformity to your wishes. I am, etc.⁹⁷

96. The merchants of Philadelphia wished to give a dinner to Washington when he passed through the city on his way to Annapolis.

97. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE

New York City, December 4, 1783.

My Dr. Marqs: Since I came to this place, which was evacuated by the British Forces, and taken possession of by our Troops on the 25th. ulto., I have made a purchase of so many pieces of the plated Ware, as to render it unnecessary for you to comply with the request of my letter of the 30th. of October from Princeton by Majr. L'Enfant; and have to beg the favor of you to take no steps in consequence thereof. With the greatest truth, and most unfeigned regard, I am, etc.¹⁰

10. On December 4 Washington wrote a brief note of the same purport as above to Major L'Enfant, the "Letter Book" copy of which is in the *Washington Papers*.

To MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE

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Philadelphia, December 9, 1783.

My Dear Marqs: I have the honor of introducing to your acquaintance, Doct: Witherspoon, President of the College of New Jersey and the bearer of this letter. It is with pleasure I can recommend him to your notice, as a Gentleman well known on this side the water for his abilities and Literature; I therefore the more readily take the liberty of presenting him to you, as worthy of your civilities.

We have just now my Dear Friend closed the military scene by taking possession of New York. I am now on my way to Annapolis to lay my resignation before Congress, from thence I shall retire directly to Mount Vernon, where I anticipate the pleasing moment when I shall embrace My Dr. Marqs.; being with every sentiment of esteem your etc.²⁵

25. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

On December 9 Washington wrote brief notes introducing John Witherspoon to Benjamin Franklin and Comte de Rochambeau. Copies of these notes are in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

On December 13 Washington wrote a similar note of introduction for Witherspoon to Duc de Lauzun. The "Letter Book" copy is in the *Washington Papers*.

To CHARLES ARMAND-TUFFIN

December 13, 1783.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 11th. inst: has been delivered to me. I am extremely sorry to be obliged to deny any request which comes from you; but never having opened a correspondence with the Minister of War in France, and having refused the like application from other officers, it is impossible to comply with it in this instance. I shall however be

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very happy in giving you a Certificate or letter, expressive of my approbation of your services.

I feel myself exceedingly flattered by your proposition of wearing my picture and would sit for you with great pleasure if the multiplicity of business I have to do in a short time would permit me; a good copy may however, be had in town, and I sincerely wish it may constantly impress on your mind the great regard and esteem with which I am, etc.⁴⁰

40. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To SAMUEL HODGDON

Philadelphia, December 13, 1783.

Sir: You will be pleased to send immediately to the orders of His Excellency the Chevr. de la Luzerne, the two pieces of Ordnance which were engraved by my desire at Poughkeepsie for the Count de Grasse, and which are now in your possession. I am, etc.³⁹

To CHEVALIER DE LA LUZERNE

Philadelphia, December 14, 1783.

Sir: I have just received a Letter from General McIntosh in Georgia praying me to use my interest with your Excellency in favor of a young frenchman under the name of Du Coins⁴³ whose situation is explained in the Letter I now do myself the honor to inclose.

Tho' I am unacquainted with the young Gentleman otherwise than by that Letter, yet having served with Credit in our Army and being represented to me as deserving, I must confess I feel myself interested in his favor, and if there will be no impropriety, shall be much obliged by anything your Excellency can do for him. With my great esteem etc.⁴⁴

39. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

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43. John Francis Borigere de Costia, who called himself "Capt. John du Coins" on account of a dueling difficulty. He entered the Fourth Georgia Regiment in 1777 and served to the end of the war.

44. In the writing of Benjamin Walker. From the original in the *Paris Archives, Aff. Etrang., Mems et Docs., E. U.*, vol. 6.

To DOCTOR HUGH MARTIN

Philadelphia, December 13, 1783.

Sir: As I have been and still am extremely occupied in closing my public and private affairs in this City, it is not in my power to make any farther observations on the subject contained in your letters of the 3d. of Novr. and 8th. of Decr., than just to remark, that in my opinion it would be very unfortunate to lose the knowledge of any discovery which tended to prevent or remove the calamities of human life.

Under this belief I should recommend the communication of your discovery, and I think, at the same time, that some compensation for your trouble and skill in prosecuting the investigation, would be highly reasonable; but I know not how this can be effected in the state of our

affairs, unless by the profits arising from the sale of your publication; nor do I see what agency I can with propriety have in the matter, beyond subscribing for your work: for it appears to me that certificates or recommendations from those who have been restored to health by the efficacy of your medicine, would be vastly more pertinent, and of infinitely more avail, than any thing I could say or do on the subject. I am, etc.⁴²

To ANTHONY WAYNE

Philadelphia, December 14, 1783.

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Dear Sir: I have only time before my departure from this City to acknowledge the receipt of your two favors of the 1 Novr.⁴⁵ and 14 December with the several inclosures, which I will take an opportunity of laying before Congress at as early a period as possible.

I should have been very happy to have seen you here; and am sorry your health did not permit it; I hope however I shall soon have that pleasure at Mount Vernon, being with great regard etc.⁴⁶

[H.S.P.]

42. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

45. Wayne's letter (a 12-page one), reporting his operations in Georgia from Jan. 19 to Dec. 9, 1782, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, no. 152, vol. 11, fol. 555.

46. In the writing of Benjamin Walker.

To LACHLAN McINTOSH

Philadelphia, December 15, 1783.

Dr. Sir: I have within a few days past received your two favors of the 15 October and 1st Novr. the latter inclosing your application to Congress.

Inclosed is my Letter to the Minister of france on the subject of Captain Du Coins. I have yet no answer, if it comes before I close this, I will send it you.

Tomorrow I set off for Annapolis on my way home, and will deliver your application with the other inclosure to Congress, but I must observe that the resolve of your Assembly of feby last, on which Congress must found their resolution for rescinding their former resolve respecting you, may, for want of its being authenticated properly, be deemed insufficient

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for Congress to act on. I will however give your application all the support in my power and have no doubt Congress will be happy in doing you Justice. With great regard I am, etc.⁴⁷

To CHARLES ARMAND-TUFFIN

Philadelphia, December 15, 1783.

My Dear Marqs: Among the last acts of my public life, none afford me more pleasure than to acknowledge the assistance I have received from those worthy men whom I have had the honor to command, and whose exertions have so much contributed to the safety and liberty of my Country.

In the number of these, You my

47. In the writing of Benjamin Walker. From a photostat of the original through the kindness of Judge E. A. Armstrong, of Princeton, N. J.

Dear Sir, cannot pass unnoticed. The great zeal, intelligence and bravery you have shewn, and the various distinguished services you have performed, deserve my warmest thanks.

It is impossible for me to recollect at this moment, all the particular times at which you have signalized yourself. Your conduct at the action of the Short hills, where out of eighty men, you had thirty killed, and where you served a piece of Artillery which, but for your spirited behaviour, would have been taken by the enemy. Your behaviour at the Head of Elk, where you commanded the rear Guard in the retreat. Your conduct in the actions of Brandywine and White Marsh, and particularly when under the Marquis de la Fayette, and next in command to him, you, with the Militia and a few rifle men, made a successful attack on the rear guard of Lord Cornwallis' Army. Your conduct, I say, in these instances, while it did infinite honor to yourself, was of singular service to the Country. But among all the services you have performed, I must not forget the very handsome partizan stroke you made in WestChester, where with all the address and bravery of a complete partizan

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Officer, you surprized a Major and some men of the enemy, in quarters, a considerable distance within their Pickets, and brought them off without any loss on your side.

Though I had not the opportunity of being a witness to your Conduct in 1780 when you was to the southward, the reports I had of it did not lessen the good opinion I before had of you; and the next year I was particularly obliged to you, for your very spirited behaviour you shewed, in becoming a Volunteer and going in that character at the head of the Column to the attack and storm of the redoubt at York town.

After such a series of.

In the number of these, You my

behaviour in the field, as could not but gain my applause. The great zeal and activity shewn in raising and discipling a new Corps, and the good order caused to be observed during the whole time you was quartered at Yorktown, confirmed my opinion of your character, as *an excellent Officer* .

While I give you this last public testimony of my approbation, I beg you to believe, that nothing will give me more satisfaction, than to have it in my power to give you more solid proofs of the real friendship and esteem, with which etc.⁴⁹

49. From a contemporary copy made in the office of the Secretary of the Continental Congress and indorsed: "March 1st. 1784 Original returned to Genl. Armand." This copy is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, no. 152 vol. 11, fol. 643.

To RICHARD VARICK

Mount Vernon, January 1, 1784.

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Dear Sir: From the moment I left the City of New York until my arrival at this place, I have been so much occupied by a variety of concerns, that I could not find a moments leisure to acknowledge the receipt of your two favors of the 4th and 7th. Ulto.

The public and other papers, which were committed to your charge, and the Books in which they have been recorded under your inspection, having come safe to hand; I take this first opportunity of signifying my entire approbation of the manner in which you have executed the important duties of recording Secretary; and the satisfaction I feel in having my papers so properly arranged, and so correctly recorded;⁷⁵ and beg you will accept my thanks for the care and attention which you have given to this business. I am fully convinced that neither the present age or posterity will consider the time and labour which have been employed in accomplishing it, unprofitably spent.

I beg you will be persuaded, that I shall take a pleasure in asserting on every occasion, the sense I entertain of the fidelity, skill and indefatigable industry manifested by you in the performance of your public duties, and that I am, etc.⁷⁶

75. The Varick Transcripts in the Library of Congress show, by the careful comparison necessary in editing this edition of the *Writings*, a minimum of errors. The differences in the transcripts from the drafts and the letters sent were, in the main, differences in spelling and capitalization of words; the punctuation variations are to be set down to differences of customs between professional copyists and Washington and his aides. Washington's statement, "correctly recorded," is a just one.

76. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To COMTE DE SOLMS

Mount Vernon, January 3, 1784.

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Sir: The Letter which you did me the honor to write from Konigstein on the 9th. of July⁷⁷ last came safely to my hands a few days ago, accompanied by one from Monsr. le Conte. de Bruhl.⁷⁸

I must entreat, my General, that you will accept my best acknowledgments for the favorable opinion you are pleased to express of my military character, as well as for your great politeness in proposing to introduce my likeness⁷⁹ amongst your collection of heroes. I must likewise be permitted to assure you with how much satisfaction I should have embraced and welcomed, at my Seat on the banks of the Patowmac, the venerable Solldart, the noble Count de Solms, who has had the happiness to have served with, and to have been the friend and companion of those illustrious characters which now compose his inestimable collection, and into whose company, I am sensible it is no small honor, to have even my portrait admitted.

But as the distance, and circumstances will not permit me the pleasure of seeing you, I must be contented with giving the best demonstration of respect in my power; I have not delayed a moment therefore to comply with your wishes, but have employed a Gentleman to perform the work, who is thought on a former occasion to have taken a better likeness of me, than any other painter has done: His forté seems to be in giving the distinguishing characteristics with more boldness than delicacy. And altho' he commonly marks the features very strongly, yet I cannot flatter you, that you will find the touches of his pencil extremely soft, or that the portrait will in any respect equal your expectations. Such as it may be (and for your sake, I would wish the execution was as perfect as possible) it will be forwarded from Philada., to the orders of the Count de Bruhl, as soon as it is finished, and I pray

77. This letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

78. Bruhl had written from London, Sept. 4, 1783. A copy of his letter is in the *Washington Papers*. (See Washington's letter to Joseph Wright, Jan. 10, 1784, *post.*)

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79. Solms acknowledged the receipt of the portrait, Aug. 4, 1785. Solms's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

your acceptance of it as a token of the great veneration and esteem with which I have the honor, etc.⁸⁰

To COMTE DE BRUHL

Mount Vernon, January 3, 1784.

Sir: In forwarding the Letter of the Count de Solms you have done a most acceptable office by bringing me acquainted with so venerable and dignified a character; you have also given me an occasion of experiencing your great politeness, and of expressing my obligations for it.

I must now take the liberty of committing to your charge a Letter directed to the Count; it is the harbinger of the Portrait which is intended to be presented to him, in conformity to his request and your permission, and which will be likewise addressed to your care by my friend the Honble Robt. Morris of philadelphia. I have the honor, etc.⁷⁶

80. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

76. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To THE SUPERINTENDENT OF FINANCE

Mount Vernon, January 4, 1784.

Dear Sir: Herewith I give you the trouble of receiving the Account of my expenditures in Philadelphia; and on my Journey home. If I recollect right, Colo. Cobb told me this was the mode you had Suggested to him, as proper for my proceeding in this matter.

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The hurry I was involved in the morning I left the City, occasioned my neglecting to take a Memorandum of the Amount of the last Warrant which I drew on the pay Mr. General, and obliges me now⁸¹ to exhibit two Accounts that I may be sure that one of them is right. The reason is this. I gave Colo. Cobb the balance which was due to me on the last Account vizt. £217.16.8. to found the Warrant, but in the hurry we were both in, he neither asked, nor did I tell him, that it was lawful Money (that is, dollars at 6/.) and from a recollection of a circumstance which I did not advert to at the time I signed the Warrant, I am led to believe he considered it Pennsylvania money, and drew the Warrant accordingly.

Should this be the case, the Account No. 2, is the one which ought to be presented at the Auditors Office. And Vice Versa. I have to request the favour of you therefore my good Sir, to let one of your Clerks examine the Warrant which I drew, or the Books of the Pay office to determine this point. And I shall be obliged to you for throwing the balance which may be found due to me on either, into the hands of Governor Clinton as soon as it is convenient, as he was kind enough to borrow money to answer my Wants for which I am now paying an Interest of Seven pr Cent.

Equally unexpected by them, as it appeared Just in my eyes to do it I have given my late Aids, who attended me from the Seat of my Military Command, One Hundred dollars each

81. This word is underscored in the "Letter Book" copy.

to bear their expences home; I could not think it reasonable, that, from their attachment to me, or from motives of etiquette, they should incur this charge themselves. Their finances I well knew were unable to bear it, altho I had some difficulty to prevail on them to accept this aid. Cobb I would not Suffer, (on Accot. of his domestic and other concerns) to proceed any further than Philadelphia with me but his distance from thence home, would be equal to those of Humphreys and Walkers from this place; all stand therefore upon an equal footing in my allowance.

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I cannot close this Letter without a renewal of those sentiments of friendship and regard, which I have always felt and professed for you; nor without those expressions of my Sensibility for the many instances of polite attention and Civilities which I have received from Mrs. Morris and you as result from a Susceptible mind; particularly during my late Stay in Philadelphia. I flatter myself it is unnecessary to repeat the assurances of the pleasure it would give Mrs. Washington and me to see you and Mrs. Morris at this retreat from my public cares, and yet, if I obey the dictates of my inclination and Wishes, I must do it. My best wishes, and respectful Compliments in which Mrs. Washington Joins me, are offered to you both; and with sincere esteem, etc.⁸²

82. From a copy made in the office of the Superintendent of Finance.

To JONATHAN TRUMBULL, JUNIOR

Mount Vernon, January 5, 1784.

Dear Trumbull: Your obliging Letter of the 15th. of Novembr. did not reach me until some days after we had taken possession of the city of New York. The scene that followed, of festivity, congratulation, addresses and resignation, must be my apology for not replying to it sooner.

I sincerely thank you for the copy of the address of Govr. Trumbull to the Genl. Assembly and free Men of your State;⁸³ the sentiments contained in it are such as would do honor to a patriot of any age or Nation; at least, they are too coincident with my own, not to meet with my warmest approbation. Be so good as to present my most cordial respects to the Governor and let him know that it is my wish, the mutual friendship and esteem which have been planted and fostered in the tumult of public life, may not wither and die in the serenity of retirement: tell him we shou'd rather amuse our evening hours of Life in cultivating the tender plants, and bringing them to perfection, before they are transplanted to a happier clime.

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Notwithstanding the jealous and contracted temper which seems to prevail in some of the States, yet I cannot but hope and believe that the good sense of the people will ultimately get the better of their prejudices; and that order and sound policy, tho' they do not come so soon as one wou'd wish, will be produced from the present unsettled and deranged state of public affairs. Indeed I am happy to observe that the political disposition is actually meliorating every day; several of the States have manifested an inclination to invest Congress with more ample powers; most of the Legislatures appear disposed to do perfect justice; and the Assembly of this Commonwealth have just complied with the requisitions of Congress, and I am informed without a dissentient voice. Every thing My Dear Trumbull will come right at last, as we have often prophesied; my only fear is that we shall

83. The address of the Governor and the reply of the Connecticut Legislature, a 9-page pamphlet, under date of Oct. 9, 1783, is in the *Washington Papers*, and was printed by Timothy Green in New London. Jonathan Trumbull, junior's, letter of November 15 is also in the *Washington Papers*.

lose a little reputation first.

After having passed with as much prosperity as could be expected, through the career of public Life, I have now reached the goal of domestic enjoyment; in which state, I assure you I find your good wishes most acceptable to me. The family at Mount Vernon joins in the same compliments and cordiality, with which I am, &c.84

To JOHN DE NEUFVILLE

Mount Vernon, January 6, 1784.

Sir: I have had the honor to receive your Letter bearing date the 19th. of August and find myself exceedingly indebted to your partiality in favor of my Country and myself, both personally, and as a citizen of the United States of America.

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The disaster which has happen'd to the House with which you was connected must be very affecting to every true American; especially as your great zeal in the cause of liberty, and your unwearied efforts to promote the interests of the United States, are well known to the citizens of this republic. I cannot but flatter myself however, that the successes of the new firm of de Neufville & Co will equal their greatest expectations, and that they will meet with the patronage of all who may be favored with their

84. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

acquaintance and correspondence.

Notwithstanding the embarrassments of our Finances, I am also of opinion, that justice will ultimately be rendered to all the public Creditors: indeed, it is very much to be regretted that any of our good friends should have suffered from the delay of it. The exigencies have been pressing, and the misfortunes arising therefrom to private individuals, perhaps inevitable; but the happy termination of the war, will I trust, soon afford an opportunity of retrieving the public credit, and enable Congress, and the State of South Carolina, to discharge the Debts which are due to your house.

I have had the pleasure of becoming acquainted with your son, and if it should be in my power to render him any services, it will be extremely agreeable to, Sir Your, etc.⁸⁵

***To CLEMENT BIDDLE**

Mount Vernon, January 8, 1784.

Dear Sir: Be so good as to send me by the Post, or any other safe and expeditious conveyance, 70 Yards of livery lace three quarters or Inch wide; or any width between. Direct it to the care of the Postmaster in Alexandria. The lace should be red and white.

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I will thank you also for sending me, if an opportunity should offer soon by Water, one hundred weight, or even a Barrel of good Coffee. Pray forwd. the Acct. between us that I may discharge the Balle. if it is against

85. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

me. My Compliments in which Mrs. Washington joins are offered to Mrs. Biddle and Mrs. Shaw. I am etc.

[H.S.P.]

***To JOSEPH WRIGHT**

Mount Vernon, January 10, 1784.

Sir: When you have finished my Portrait, which is intended for the Count de Solms, I will thank you for handing it to Mr. Robert Morris, who will forward it to the Count de Bruhl (Minister from his Electoral Highness of Saxe at the Court of London) as the Channel pointed out for the conveyance of it.

As the Count de Solms proposes to honor it with a place in his collection of Military Characters, I am perswaded you will not be deficient in point of execution. Be so good as to forward the cost of it to me, and I will remit you the money. Let it (after Mr. Morris has seen it) be carefully packed to prevent injury. With great esteem, I am etc.

[H.S.P.]

To THE SUPERINTENDENT OF FINANCE

(Private)

Mount Vernon, January 10, 1784.

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Dear Sir: I will thank you for putting the letter herewith enclosed into a proper channel of conveyance. The Count de Bruhl is informed by it that my Portrait (which I have begged the Count de Solms to accept) will be forwarded to his care by you, so soon as it is finished, and I request the favor of you to do it accordingly. Mr. Wright is desir'd to hand it to you for this purpose; and as he is said to be a little lazy, you would oblige me by stimulating him to the completion. By promise, it was to have been done in five or six weeks from the time I left Philadelphia, near four of which are expired. I am sorry to give you trouble about trifles, but I know you will excuse it, in this instance. With sentiments of high esteem and regards, I am, etc.⁸⁶

To SAMUEL VAUGHAN

Mount Vernon, January 14, 1784.

Sir: The torpid state into which the severity of the season has thrown things, the interruption of the post, occasioned by bad roads, and frozen rivers, and a want of other conveyance consequent thereof, must plead my excuse for not thanking you sooner for the polite attention you were pleased to shew me, while I was in Philada.; and for the friendly offers you obligingly made me, before I left that city. But though my acknowledgements

86. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

of them come late, I pray you to be persuaded that they are not less sincere, nor are they less gratefully offered on that account.

Colo. Humphreys (one of my late Aid de Camp's) who accompanied me to Virginia, and is now on his return home, will do me the favor of presenting this letter to you, and of handing Mr. Higgins's observations on Cements, which you were pleased to lend me, and from which I have extracted such parts as I mean to carry into practice.

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I found my new room, towards the completion of which you kindly offered your house-joiner, so far advanced in the wooden part of it, the Doors, Windows and floors being done, as to render it unnecessary to remove your workman with his Tools (the distance being great) to finish the other parts; especially as I incline to do it in stucco, (which, if I understood you right, is the present taste in England), and more especially as you may find occasion for him in the execution of your own purposes as the Spring advances. And now my good sir, as I have touched upon the business of stuccoing, permit me to ask you if the rooms with which it is entrusted are painted, generally; or are they left of the natural colour which is given by the cement made according to Mr. Higgins's mode of preparing it? And also, whether the rooms thus finished are stuccoed below the surbase (chair high) or from thence upwards only?

These are trifling questions to trouble you with, but I am sure you will have goodness enough to excuse, and answer them. Please to make a tender of my best respects to Mrs. Vaughan and the rest of the family, and accept the compliments of the season from Mrs. W—n and myself who join in expression of the pleasure we shou'd feel in seeing you under our roof. I am, etc.⁸⁷

87. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To DAVID HUMPHREYS

Mount Vernon, January 14, 1784.

My Dear Humphrys: I have been favored with your Letter of the 6th. Be assured that there are few things which would give me more pleasure than opportunities of evincing to you the sincerity of my friendship, and disposition to render you services at any time when it may be in my power.

Altho' all recommendations from me to Congress must now be considered as coming from a private character, yet I enter very chearfully into your views; and as far as my suggesting

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of them to that Honble body, accompanied by my testimonial of your competency to the execution of the duties of either of the offices in contemplation will go, you have them freely; and the enclosed Letter, which is a copy of the one I have written to Congress on the occasion, will be an evidence of my good wishes, whatever may be the success.

I cannot take my leave of you, without offering those acknowledgments of your long and zealous services to the public which your merits justly entitle you to, and which a grateful heart should not withhold: and I feel very sensibly the obligations I am personally under to you for the aid I have derived from your abilities, for the chearful assistance you have afforded me upon many interesting occasions, and for the attachment you have always manifested towards me. I shall hold in pleasing remembrance the friendship and intimacy which has subsisted between us, and shall neglect no opportunity on my part to cultivate and improve them; being, with unfeigned esteem and regard My Dr. Humphrys Yrs. etc.⁸⁸

88. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

***To PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS**

Mount Vernon, January 14, 1784.

Sir: The goodness of Congress, in the assurances they were pleased to give me of charging themselves with the interests of those Confidential Officers who had attended me to the resignation of my public Employments; and the request of your Excellency to Colonel Humphrys (after I had been honored with my public Audience) that, if any thing should occur to him in consequence of what had just been suggested, that he would communicate it to you in a letter; induce me to take the liberty of bringing the wishes of that Officer before Congress.

Having devoted the last Seven or Eight years to the Service of his Country, he is desirous of continuing in the walk of public life, although he is ignorant, as I also am, of the Offices which Congress have to bestow and may think him competent to. Two things however

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seem likely to occur; either of which I am perswaded he would fill with as much advantage to the public as reputation to himself. The one is a Regiment; in case a Continental peace Establishment should be resolv'd on: The other, Official Secretary to an Embassy abroad, if new appointments should be made, or a vacancy happen in the old ones.

There is a third thing which I barely hint at, with all possible deference, and with a diffidence which proceeds more from a doubt of the propriety of my suggesting it, than from any question which arises in my Mind of his competency to the duties; and that is Secretary of Foreign Affairs, if Congress should think it expedient to make another appointment; and should find all those requisites in him which are necessary to

constitute a Minister for that department. For his ability, integrity, punctuality, and sobriety I can fully answer.

If I have gone too far, Congress will please to excuse it; and attribute the error to my wishes to serve a worthy character. I have the honor etc.

***To EDWARD HAND**

Mount Vernon, January 14, 1784.

Dear Sir: When I left Philadelphia I hoped to have had the pleasure of seeing you at Annapolis before my departure from thence, and to have had an opportunity (previous to my resignation) of expressing to you personally, amongst the last acts of my Official Life, my entire approbation of your public conduct, particularly in the execution of the important duties of Adjutant General.

Notwithstanding I have been disappointed in that expectation, and have it now in my power, only as a private character, to make known my Sentiments and feelings respecting my Military friends, yet I cannot decline making use of the first occasion after my retirement of informing you, My dear Sir, how much reason I have had to be satisfied

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with the great zeal, attention, and ability manifested by you in conducting the business of your Department; and how happy I should be in opportunities of demonstrating my sincere regard and esteem for you; It is unnecessary I hope to add with what pleasure I should see you at this place, being with great truth My dear Sir, Yr. etc.

[H.S.P.]

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Mount Vernon, January 14, 1784.

Sir: I have had the pleasure to receive your Letter of the 28th ulto: by Mr. Godin,⁸⁹ and beg your Excellency to be persuaded, that I shall always be happy in opportunities of shewing every suitable attention to foreigners, and gentl. of such distinction, as those you did me the honor to introduce to my acquaintance.

I am truly sensible Sir, that the Extract from the instructions of the Executive of Pennsylvania to their Delegates contains another most flattering proof of the favourable opinion they are pleased to entertain of my past services. Every repeated mark of the approbation of my fellow citizens (especially of those invested with so dignified an appointment,) demands my particular acknowledgment. Under this impression I cannot but feel the greatest obligations to the supreme executive Council of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania: But as my sentiments on the subject of their instructions, have been long and well known to the public, I need not repeat them to your Excellency on the present occasion.⁹⁰ I have therefore only to add that Mrs. Washington joins me in presenting our best compliments to Mrs. Mifflin, and that I have, etc.⁹¹

89. A relative of Peter John Van Berckel. He was accompanied on his journey to South Carolina by a Mr. Backer and Mr. Barrow Vos.

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90. The Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania had instructed the State's delegates in Congress to engage Congress' attention to the fact that although Washington "thinks himself amply *rewarded* for all his labors and cares, by the love and prosperity of his fellow citizens," yet "they ought not to suffer those merits to be burthensome to him. We are convinced that the people of Pennsylvania would regret such a consequence." Washington's letter to Congress stopped any further movement in the direction of granting him a monetary reward for his services.

91. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To WILLIAM HAMILTON⁹²

Mount Vernon, January 15, 1784.

Sir: If I recollect right, I heard you say, when I had the pleasure of seeing you last, that you were⁹³ about a floor composed of a cement which was to answer the purpose of Flagstone or Tile, and that you proposed to variegate the colour in the manner of the former.

As I have a long open Gallery in front of my house to which I want to give a stone; or some other kind of floor which will stand the weather, I would thank you for information respecting the success of your experiment with such directions and observations (if you think the method will answer) as would enable me to execute my purpose. If any of the component parts are rare and expensive, please to note it, and where they are to be obtained, and whether all seasons will do for the admixture of the composition. I will make no apology for the liberty I take by this request, as I persuade myself you will not think it much trouble to comply with it. I am etc.⁹⁴

***To CLEMENT BIDDLE**

Mount Vernon, January 17, 1784.

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Dear Sir: On the 8th. I wrote to you for 70 yards of livery lace⁹⁶ (red and white, $\frac{3}{4}$ or Inch wide, or any width between) to be sent by the Post; or any other safe and expeditious conveyance. Lest that letter should have miscarried I repeat my request, as I am in immediate want of that article. I did, at the sametime desire that One hundd. weight, or a Barrl. of good Coffee might be

92. Of "Bush Hill" near Philadelphia, Pa.

93. An omission is possible at this point by Bartholomew Dandridge, who was the copyist of this volume of the "Letter Books."

94. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

96. On February 5 Washington wrote again to Biddle about the lace, which had not arrived. He also wanted "a two pole Chain, exact in its length, and not too small, or weak in the links; this I wish to receive soon too. The things you were to send by Water, did not arrive before the Frost set in, and I have heard nothing of them since." This letter is in the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. Attached to it is a sample of the lace desired.

sent me by the first Vessel bound for the Port of Alexandria.

I pray you now, my good Sir, to send me as soon as a conveyance offers, four brass Wired Sieves, of the common size in the rim, but exactly one eighth, one Sixteenth, and one thirtieth of an Inch in the Meshes; the fourth to be finer than the last mentioned. I want these to prepare materials to compose a Cement of which I propose to make some experiments. exactness therefore in the different sizes is required of the maker of them.

I have seen rooms with gilded borders; made I believe, of papier Maché fastned on with Brads or Cement round the Doors and window Casings, Surbase &ca.; and which gives a plain blew, or green paper a rich and handsome look. Is there any to be had in

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Philadelpa?, and at what price? Is there any plain blew and green Paper to be had also? the price (by the yd. and width) With great regard, etc.

[H.S.P.]

To GOVERNOR BENJAMIN HARRISON

Mount Vernon, January 18, 1784.

My dear Sir: I have just had the pleasure to receive your letter of the 8th., for the friendly and affectionate terms in which you have welcomed my return to this Country and to private life; and for the favourable light in which you are pleased to consider, and express your sense of my past services, you have my warmest and most grateful acknowledgments.

That the prospect before us is, as you justly observe, fair, none can deny; but what use we shall make of it, is exceedingly problematical; not but that I believe, all things will come right at last; but like a young heir, come a little prematurely to a large inheritance, we shall wanton and run riot until we have brought our reputation to the brink of ruin, and then like him shall have to labor with the current of opinion, when *compelled* perhaps, to do what prudence and common policy pointed out as plain as any problem in Euclid, in the first instance.

The disinclination of the individual States to yield competent powers to Congress for the Federal Government, their unreasonable jealousy of that body and of one another, and the disposition which seems to pervade each, of being all-wise and all-powerful within itself, will, if there is not a change in the system be our downfal as a nation. This is as clear to me as the A, B, C; and I think we have opposed Great Britain, and have arrived at the present state of peace and independency, to very little purpose, if we cannot conquer our own prejudices. The powers of Europe begin to see this, and our newly acquired friends the British, are already and professedly acting upon this ground; and wisely too,

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if we are determined to persevere in our folly. They know that individual opposition to their measures is futile, and *boast* that we are not sufficiently united as a Nation to give a general one! Is not the indignity alone, of this declaration, while we are in the very act of peacemaking and conciliation, sufficient to stimulate us to vest more extensive and adequate powers in the sovereign of these United States? For my own part, altho' I am returned to, and am now mingled with the class of private citizens, and like them must suffer all the evils of a Tyranny, or of too great an extension of federal powers; I have no fears arising from this source, in my mind, but I have many, and powerful ones indeed which predict the worst consequences from a half-starved, limping Government, that appears to be always moving upon crutches, and tottering at every

step. Men, chosen as the Delegates in Congress are, cannot officially be dangerous; they depend upon the breath, nay, they are so much the creatures of the people, under the present constitution, that they can have no views (which could possibly be carried into execution,) nor any interests, distinct from those of their constituents. My political creed therefore is, to be wise in the choice of Delegates, support them like Gentlemen while they are our representatives, give them competent powers for all federal purposes, support them in the due exercise thereof, and lastly, to compel them to close attendance in Congress during their delegation. These things under the present mode for, and termination of elections, aided by annual instead of constant Sessions, would, or I am exceedingly mistaken, make us one of the most wealthy, happy, respectable and powerful Nations, that ever inhabited the terrestrial Globe, without them, we shall in my opinion soon be every thing which is the direct reverse of them.

I shall look for you, in the first part of next month, with such other friends as may incline to accompany you, with great pleasure, being with best respects to Mrs. Harrison, in which Mrs. Washington joins me, dear Sir, &c.97

97. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Mount Vernon, January 19, 1784.

Sir: In a Letter which I did myself the honor to write to your Excellency on the 21st of Decr., amongst other matters which were submitted to the consideration of Congress, I mentioned the case of Brigr. Genl. Michael Jackson, and informed you that having mislaid the papers relative to it, I could only state the facts from my recollection. Having now found the original documents, I take the liberty to enclose them to Congress, and to submit the case to their decision.

In the before mentioned communication, I believe I also omitted to include Captain Houdin (a french Gentlemen who has served many years with reputation in the Masstts. Line) amongst the Officers who were desirous of being arranged in any Peace Establishment that might be adopted; in that case, I beg leave to mention him as a deserving Officer, and to place him on the same footing with the other Candidates.

With great respect etc.⁹⁸

98. In the writing of David Humphreys.

Jackson's letter of Nov. 19, 1783, is filed with this letter in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*.

To THE EARL OF TANKERVILLE

Mount Vernon, January 20, 1784.

My Lord: I do not know how it happen'd but the fact is, that your Lordships favor of the 15th. of July did not reach my hands until the latter part of Decr. whilst I was on my return to this Seat of retirement. The Letter however which I had the honor of writing to Lady Tankerville, duplicate of which, for fear of accidents, I now inclose: will have informed her

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Ladyship, and I persuade myself, you My Lord, of the impracticability of my [taking]¹ an active and responsible part in the disposal of Mr. Bennets Estate in this Country; but if my advice, and occasional assistance to the Gentlemen who accept the trust, can be of any avail, they shall be afforded with great pleasure. Could I say more, without feeling conscious of giving assurances I should be unable to comply with, such is my willingness to serve your Lordship, and your right Hoble mother, I would do it most chearfully.

Much as I expected to find my own private concerns deranged; and intricately involved as I knew those of *some* others (which had been committed to my care) must be, I shall realize more trouble and perplexity that I apprehended (before I began the investigation) in restoring them, if it be practicable, to order. An almost entire suspension of every thing which related to my own Estate, for near nine years, has accumulated an abundance of work for me.

The second person named, My Lord, in the Power of Attorney, is miscalled it: it should be Hooe, instead of Howe. Not adverting to the probability of this circumstance, at the time I was writing to her

1. The word in brackets is omitted by the copyist and is supplied as probably the

Ladyship, must account for, and will be received I hope, as an apology for that paragraph of my Letter which professed ignorance of such a person. So soon as I discovered the mistake I arrested the power in its progress to the Attorney General, Mr. Randolph, and have now placed it in the hands of Colo. Hooe, who is an exceeding good man, and very competent to the execution of the trust which he accepts. Mr. Little, whose character I have enquired into since I came home, stands exceeding well in his reputation, and may from his peculiar knowledge of the Estate, be very serviceable in the disposal of it to the best advantage.

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I beg you to be assured My Lord, that no apology was necessary for the request you made to me; that I shall always feel pleasure in obliging your Lordship wherever it may be in my power, and that with great consideration and respect, I have the honor, etc.²

To CHEVALIER JEAN DE HEINTZ

Mount Vernon, January 21, 1784.

Sir: As soon as I had the honor of receiving your Letter containing a proposal of the order of the Knights of Divine Providence; I referred the subject of it to the decision of Congress, in my letter to that august Body dated the 28th. of August last, a copy of which is enclosed. Whereupon the United States in Congress assembled, were pleased to pass their Act of the 5th. Inst: which is properly authenticated

2. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

by their Secretary, and which I have the honor of transmitting herewith.

Notwithstanding it appears to be incompatible with the principles of our national constitution to admit the introduction of any kind of Nobility, Knighthood, or distinctions of a similar nature, amongst the Citizens of our republic, yet I pray you will have the goodness to make known to the Illustrious Knights of the order of Divine providence, that we receive with the deepest gratitude and most perfect respect, this flattering mark of their attention and approbation. For the polite manner in which you have communicated the pleasure of the order, you will be pleased to accept my best acknowledgments. I have the honor, etc.²

To PHILIP SCHUYLER

Mount Vernon, January 21, 1784.

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 20th. of Decr. found me as you conjectured by that fireside, from which I had been too long absent for my own convenience; to which I returned with

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the greatest avidity the moment my public avocations would permit, and from which I hope, never again to be withdrawn.

While I am here solacing

2. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

myself in my retreat from the busy scenes of life, I am not only made extremely happy by the gratitude of my Countrymen in general, but particularly so by the repeated proofs of the kindness and approbation of those who have been more intimately conversant with my public transactions; and I need scarcely add that the favourable opinion of no one, is more acceptable, than that of yourself.

In recollecting the vicissitudes of fortune we have experienced, and the difficulties we have surmounted; I shall always call to mind the great assistance I have frequently received from you, both in your public and private character; May the blessings of Peace amply reward your exertions, May you, and your Family (to whom the compliments of Mrs. Washington and myself are affectionately presented) long continue to enjoy every species of happiness this world can afford. I am, etc.³

***To CHARLES THOMSON**

Mount Vernon, January 22, 1784.

Dear Sir: The original letter and other Papers from the Chevr. de Heintz respecting the Order of the Knights of Divine Providence, were transmitted to Congress without a Copy being taken; I am a little at a loss therefore in what manner to direct my letter to him, more especially as I have a faint recollection that their is a mode pointed out for the Address by the Secretary himself. Let me pray you therefore, my good Sir, to examine into this matter, and after giving my letter

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3. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

another cover, to put it into the proper channel for conveyance. If my Commission is not necessary for the files of Congress I should be glad to have it deposited amongst my own Papers. It may serve *my Grand Children* some fifty or a hundd. years hence for a theme to ruminate upon, *if they should be* contemplatively disposed.⁴

We have been so fast locked in Snow and Ice since Christmas, that all kinds of intercourse have been suspended; and a duty which I owed my Mother, and intended 'ere this to have performed, has been forced to yield to the intemperence of the Weather: but, as this again must submit to the approaching Sun, I shall soon be enabled, I expect, to discharge that duty on which Nature and inclination have a call; and shall be ready afterwards to welcome my friends to the shadow of this Vine and Fig tree; where I hope it is unnecessary to add, I should be exceedingly happy to see you, and any of *my late Masters*, now representatives. Mrs. Washington, if she knew I was writing to you in the stile of Invitation would, I am certain, adduce arguments to prove that I ought to include Mrs. Thompson; but before she should have half spun the thread of her discourse, it is more than probable I should have nonplused her, by yielding readily to the force of her reasoning.

With sentiments of sincere regd. etc.⁵

4. Thomson replied (February 7): "With respect to your *commission* I have to inform you that previous to the rect of your letter it had been in agitation among the members to have an Order passed for returning it to you in a gold box A motion has accordingly been made to that effect, wch was received with general approbation, and referred to a comee to be drawn up in proper terms. The comee have not yet reported. But I have not the least doubt of its being returned to you in a way that will be satisfactory and I heartily wish, that this sacred deposit may be preserved by your *children* and children's children to the latest posterity and may prove an incentive to them to emulate the virtues of their worthy and

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great progenitor." Thomson's letter is in the *Washington Papers*. The commission was never returned to the General. It remained with the *Papers of the Continental Congress* and is now in the Library of Congress.

5. From the *Charles Thomson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

To JAMES NOURSE

Mount Vernon, January 22, 1784.

Sir: Yesterday gave me the honor of your favor of the 11th.⁶ from Annapolis. I thank you for the trouble you have taken to bring me acquainted with the affairs of my deceased Brother⁷ of Berkeley.

It would give me great pleasure to render any service to his children; and as far as I can do it by paying attention to those two who are in my neighbourhood with Mr. Griffith, I will; but to concern myself in the smallest degree with the management of their Estates, I cannot. It would be undertaking a trust which I could not discharge properly, consequently it would be wrong to engage in it. I have not only the derangement of nine years in my own private concerns to emerge from, but (what gives me infinitely more concern) those of others, for whom I have acted as Executor, by powers of Attorney &ca. to extricate also, if it be practicable. Here then it is evident I have sufficient employment (more indeed than comports with that ease and freedom from trouble and care which I wish to enjoy) without undertaking any new matter.

It gives me concern to hear that my Brothers Estate is so much involved, I had no conception of it; nor do I know upon what terms he obtained the Land I sold a Mr. Pendleton. Not a farthing of the purchase money has ever yet been paid to me, nor have Deeds passed from me to any one. I wish this may be all, it is to be feared many of my rents will be found in his hands when I come to a final settlement with my Tenants they having been told, his receipts would exonerate them, while he has been requested to

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receive any rents which might be offered to him on my behalf. If his Books are in your hands I shall be obliged to you for a transcript of the

6. Not now found in the *Washington Papers*.

7. Samuel Washington.

account between us, as it stands thereon.

I shall receive nothing which may fall to me as Heir at Law to his youngest son. But if the Lawyers are clear that the right is in me, it may not be amiss to consider, whether such property had best be given to any one, or to all his children in equal proportions, or whether still better pretensions may not be in some other.

I thank you for your kind congratulations upon my return to domestic life, and am, Sir Yrs. etc.⁸

To CHEVALIER DE CHASTELLUX

Mount Vernon, February 1, 1784.

My Dear Chevr: I have the honor to receive your favor of the 23d. of August from L'Orient. I hope this Letter will find you in the circle of your friends at Paris, well recovered from the fatigues of your long and wearisome inspection on the frontiers of the Kingdom.

I am at length become a private citizen of America, on the banks of the Patowmac; where under my own Vine and my own Fig-tree, free from the bustle of a camp and the intrigues of a court, I shall view the busy world, "in the calm light of mild philosophy", and with that serenity of mind, which the Soldier in his pursuit of glory, and the Statesman of fame, have not time to enjoy. I am not only retired from all

8. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

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public employments; but I am retiring within myself and shall tread the private walks of life with heartfelt satisfaction.

After seeing New York evacuated by the British Forces on the 25th. of Novembr., and civil Government established in the city, I repaired to Congress, and surrendered into their hands, all my powers, with my Commission on the 23d. of Decemr. and arrived at this cottage on christmas eve, where I have been close locked up ever since in Frost and Snow. Mrs. Washington thanks you for your kind remembrance of her, and prays you to accept her best wishes. With sentiments of pure and unabated friendship, I am, etc.⁹

To SAMUEL LEWIS¹⁰

Mount Vernon, February 1, 1784.

Sir: After an absence of near nine years I am returned to my own home again, and beginning to look into my private concerns, which have undergone an almost total suspension during that period.

In my researches after papers, I find memorandums of warrants which had been put into the hands of the Surveyor of Botetourt to execute; particularly one in my own right, under the royal Proclamation of 1763 for 5000 acres, which appears to have been executed in part on the 6th. of Novr. 1774 by a survey for 2950 on the Great Kanhawa, adjoining to (what is commonly called)

9. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

10. Surveyor of Botetourt County, Va.

the Pokitellico Survey for 21,941, acres. And in a Letter of the 15th. of Feby. 1779, from Genl. Lewis (whose death I sincerely regret) I find a paragraph containing these words;

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With regard to what you ask respecting Lands, no patents have been granted for any by the Proclamation of 63, but one which Doctr. Connelly obtained by favor of Lord Dunmore, tho' there seems no doubt of our obtaining such rights, as soon as the Land Office be opened, which is expected next meeting of the Assembly. The burning Spring is surveyed in your and my names, and shall put the plat in the Office, when opened, with some others I have in readiness. It will, for the quantity, make a good stock place, as a great proportion may be turned into meadow. The ground off the river, from the mouth of Cole river up, and particularly about the burning Spring is very high, uneven and barren, so much so that no Settlement can be made off the low-grounds of the river.

I have now to beg the favor of you Sir, to give me such further information respecting the application of my warrants which have come into your office, as it may be in your power to do; and to inform me at the same time whether the Survey of 2950 acres made for my benefit, has ever been returned to the Secretarys office: Also, whether a patent for the Tract including the burning Spring has ever been obtained, for what quantity of acres, what improvements are on it, with such other particulars as may be interesting for me to know, particularly, in what county it lies, how far it is from the Kanhawa in the nearest part, and from the mouth of Cole river, where it forms its junction with the latter.

A Letter directed to any of

your acquaintances in Fredericksburg or Richmond, with a request to put it into the post office, will be sure of getting to hand, other conveyances, more than probable will be precarious. I am, etc.¹¹

To COMTE DE ROCHAMBEAU

Mount Vernon, February 1, 1784.

My Dear Count: Having resigned my public trust, and with it all my public cares into the hands of Congress, I now address you in the character of an American Citizen from the

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Banks of the Potomac to which I have been retired, fast locked up by frost and snow ever since Christmas. The tranquil walks of domestic life are now begining to unfold themselves, and promise a rich harvest of pleasing contemplation, in which My Dear Count, you will make one of my most pleasing themes, as I shall recollect with pleasure, that we have been cotemporaries and fellow labourers in the cause of Liberty, and that we have lived together as brothers should do, in harmonious friendship.

I saw all the British forces embarked, and on the point of sailing before I left New York about the 4th. of Decr., I then repaired to Congress and surrendered all my public appointments, and am now just beginning to look into the deranged situation of my private concerns, which had come in for no share of my attention the last eight years.

11. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To see you at this Seat of retirement from the bustle of the world and cares of public life, is a pleasure too great to *expect*, tho' you must allow me to *wish* it, because I can with much truth assure you, that I am with every sentiment of esteem, regard and friendship My Dear Count Your, etc.¹²

To MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE

Mount Vernon, February 1, 1784.

At length my Dear Marquis I am become a private citizen on the banks of the Potomac, and under the shadow of my own Vine and my own Fig-tree, free from the bustle of a camp and the busy scenes of public life, I am solacing myself with those tranquil enjoyments, of which the Soldier who is ever in pursuit of fame, the Statesman whose watchful days and sleepless nights are spent in devising schemes to promote the welfare of his own, perhaps the ruin of other countries, as if this globe was insufficient for us all, and the Courtier who is always watching the countenance of his Prince, in hopes of catching a gracious smile, can have very little conception. I am not only retired from all

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public employments, but I am retiring within myself; and shall be able to view the solitary walk, and tread the paths of private life with

12. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

heartfelt satisfaction. Envious of none, I am determined to be pleased with all; and this my dear friend, being the order for my march, I will move gently down the stream of life, until I sleep with my Fathers.

Except an introductory letter or two, and one countermanding my request respecting plate, I have not written to you since the middle of October by Genl. Duportail. To inform you at this late hour, that the city of New York was evacuated by the British forces on the 25th. of November; that the American Troops took possession of it the same day, and delivered it over to the civil authority of the State; that good order, contrary to the expectation and predictions of Gl. Carleton, his Officers and all the loyalists, was immediately established; and that the harbour of New York was finally cleared of the British flag about the 5th. or 6th. of Decemr., would be an insult to your intelligence. And to tell you that I remained eight days in New York after we took possession of the city; that I was very much hurried during that time, which was the reason I did not write to you from thence; that taking Phila. in my way, I was obliged to remain there a week; that at Annapolis, where Congress were then, and are now sitting, I did, on the 23d. of December present them my commission, and made them my last bow, and on the Eve of Christmas entered these doors an older man by near nine years, than when I left them, is very uninteresting to any but myself. Since that period, we have been fast locked up in frost and snow, and excluded in a manner from all kinds of intercourse, the winter having been, and still continues to be, extremely severe.

I have now to acknowledge, and thank you for your favors of the 22d of July and 8th of September, both of which, altho' the first is of old date, have come to hand since my letter to you of October. The accounts

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contained therein of the political and commercial state of affairs as they respect America, are interesting, and I wish I could add that they were altogether satisfactory; and the agency you have had in both, particularly with regard to the free ports in France, is a fresh evidence of your unwearied endeavours to serve this country; but there is no part of your Letters to Congress My Dear Marquis, which bespeaks the excellence of your heart more plainly than that, which contains those noble and generous sentiments on the justice which is due to the faithful friends and Servants of the public; but I must do Congress the justice to declare, that as a body, I believe there is every disposition in them, not only to acknowledge the merits, but to reward the services of the army: There is a contractedness, I am sorry to add, in some of the States, from whence all our difficulties on this head, proceed; but it is to be hoped, the good sense and perseverance of the rest, will ultimately prevail, as the spirit of *meanness* is beginning to subside.

From a letter which I have just received from the Governor of this State¹³ I expect him here in a few days, when I shall not be unmindful of what you have written about the bust, and will endeavour to have matters respecting it, placed on their proper basis. I thank you most sincerely My Dear Marqs. for your kind invitation to your house, if I should come to Paris. At present I see but little prospect of such a voyage, the deranged situation of my private concerns, occasioned by an absence of almost nine years, and an entire disregard of all private business during that period, will not only suspend, but may put it for ever out of

13. Benjamin Harrison.

my power to gratify this wish. This not being the case with you, come with Madame la Fayette and view me in my domestic walks. I have often told you, and repeat it again, that no man could receive you in them with more friendship and affection than I should do; in which I am sure Mrs. Washington would cordially join me. We unite in respectful

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compliments to your Lady, and best wishes for your little flock. With every sentiment of esteem, Admiration and Love, I am etc.¹⁴

To DUC DE LAUZUN

Mount Vernon, February 1, 1784.

My Dear Duke: I have had the pleasure to receive your favor of the 11th. of Octor. from L'Orient: every testimony which you give of my holding a place in your remembrance, is as pleasing as it is flattering to me; and I pray you not to deprive me of them.

After seeing the British forces withdrawn from New York, and Civil Government established there, I repaired to Congress (at Annapolis) and surrendered into their hands all my public employments. I am now a private citizen on the banks of the Potomac, meditating amidst Frost and snow (which at present encompass me) upon the structure of walks for private life; in any of which I should be happy to meet

14. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

you, but in none with more pleasure than at this seat of retirement from the bustle of the busy world.

As I feel myself interested in every thing that concerns you, permit me to congratulate you with the warmth which friendship dictates, upon your late promotion;²² and to assure you that I derived much pleasure from the accts. you have given me of it. Mrs. Washington accepts your kind remembrance of her with gratitude, and offers best wishes in return. My Compliments are presented to Count Dillon, and the other Officers of your Corps with whom I have the honor of an acquaintance; and with sentiments of the greatest regard and esteem, I have the honor, etc.²³

To THOMAS LEWIS¹⁵

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Mount Vernon, February 1, 1784.

Sir: After an absence of almost nine years, and *nearly* a total suspension of all my private concerns, I am at length set down at home; and am endeavouring to recover my business from the confusion into which it has run during that period.

Among other matters which require my attention, indeed in which

22. The appointment to Major General of Horse.

23. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

15. Surveyor of Augusta County, Va.

I need information, is the state of the Lands which I am entitled to in my own right, and by purchase under the royal Proclamation in 1763, (west of the mountains). My papers are so mixed, and in such disorder at this time, occasioned by frequent hasty removals of them out of the way of the Enemy, that I cannot, (it being likely too, that some of them are lost) by the assistance of my memory, come at a thorough knowledge of that business. In a Letter which I have come across, from Capt. William Crawford, who appears to have acted as your Deputy, dated the 8th of May 1774 I find these words "Inclosed you have the Drafts of the round Bottom and your Shurtees Land, done agreeably to Mr. Lewis's direction." For the latter, I have found a patent signed by Lord Dunmore the 5th day of July 1774, for 2813 acres; but the other is 16 yet in my possession, and I am unable from any recollection I have of the matter, to account for it, unless it shou'd have been arrested there by some very ungenerous, and unjustifiable attempts of different people, at different times, to disturb me in my right to it, a right, I will venture to say, which is founded upon the first discovery of the Land, the first improvement of it; the first survey, and for ought I know, the *only* report by authority that ever was made of it; which will be found in the words of the

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enclosed copy, the recital of which, if I mistake not, is in your own hand writing, and the whole with your signature.

I have an imperfect recollection that in the year 1774, I sent a young man (of the name of Young,¹⁷ who at that time lived with me) to you on the business of these Lands; but not having as yet met with any letter from you, or report from him on the subject, I am unable with precision, to recollect the particular matters with which he was charged, or the result of his journey. This then is one of the points on which I want information, and it is one of the inducements to my giving you the trouble of this

16. The word “not” apparently omitted by the copyist.

17. George Young.

letter.

Another is, to know if I have any warrants in your hands unexecuted, it appearing from two Bonds in my possession, one from a Capt. Roots¹⁸ for 3000 acres; the other from Lieut: (now, or lately the revd. Mr.) Thruston¹⁹ for 2000 more; that I ought (if I have not been neglectful in taking them out) to have warrants somewhere for 5000 acres under the proclamation of 1763, of which no locations, that have come to my knowledge, have yet been made.

Another thing of which I wish to be informed is, whether there are any surveys or locations in your Office, for the Land immediately at the point of fork between the little Kanhawa (upper side) and the Ohio; and in that case, in whose names they are made. The reason for the latter enquiry is, that Capt. Crawford in a letter of the 12th. of Novr 1773, (an extract from which I herewith enclose, as I also do a copy of the survey, which he actually made at that place) proposed to locate this spot for his own benefit and mine. And I am the more solicitous in this enquiry, as it appears by a subsequent Letter of his to me, that there was some difficulty in the way of his obtaining a warrant from Lord Dunmore for the part he

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expected to get himself. If this difficulty continued to exist until his death, so as to prevent his location; and provided there are no better pretensions than mine; I should be glad to lay the two warrants before mentioned (to wit, Roots's and Thruston's) on this spot. I would be understood however, explicitly to mean, that it is not my wish, in the smallest degree to injure my much regretted friend Crawford, or any person claiming under him by this

18. Capt. John Roots.

19. Charles Mynn Thruston.

application; but if the road is open, to learn only from you, by what mode I am to obtain it; having the above rights for 5000 acres, which were in whole or part designed for this very spot, yet to locate.²⁰

It might seem proper, before I conclude to make an apology for the trouble the compliance with these several requests will give you; but persuading myself you will consider the situation I have been in for many years, as a reasonable excuse, I conceive it is altogether unnecessary my good Sir to offer one. I shall only request the favor therefore, of an answer, and your care of the inclosed letter to your nephew, (who I find has made one survey for me in Botetourt) or to the Surveyor of that County.

On the Death of your Brother, Genl. Lewis, I most sincerely condole with you, as I had, while he was living a sincere friendship and regard for him. I am, &c.

P. S. An answer under cover to some acquaintance of yours in Fredericksg. or Richmond, with a request to put the Letter into the post office will be certain of getting to hand, otherwise, unless an opportunity shou'd offer directly to Alexandria, the chances are against my ever receiving it.²¹

20. See Washington's letter to John Harvie, Feb. 10, 1784, *post*.

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21. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To GOVERNOR LUIS DE UNZAGA Y AMEZAGA²⁴

Mount Vernon, February 4, 1784.

Sir: The Gentleman who will have the honor of presenting this Letter to your Excellency, is Genl. Stewart, an Officer of distinguished merit in the American Army; having embarked amongst the foremost in the cause of his Country, and persevered in the service of it with equal credit to himself and advantage to her, until the happy [re-establishment of peace, in the acknowledgment of our Independence and Sovereignty.

He proposes soon to make a Voyage to Europe, but wishing, previously thereto, to visit a place so remarkable and so well known to this Country as the Havana, I have taken the liberty of introducing him to your Excellency's countenance and Civilities, during his stay there. He will repeat to you, the assurances of respect and consideration with which I have the honor, etc.]²⁵

24. Of Cuba.

25. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*. The portion in brackets is taken from a facsimile of the last page of the original.

To EDMUND RANDOLPH

Mount Vernon, February 10, 1784.

Dear Sir: A short time before I came home I received a power of Attorney from the Earl of Tankerville, and his Brother, the Honble Mr. Bennett; authorising Colo. Hooe, (miscalled Howe) yourself and me, to dispose of property belonging to the latter in this State. Letters, from Lord Tankerville and the Countess his mother, to me, accompanied the Power, expressive of their wishes that I would accept the trust; but the deranged situation of my

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own private concerns, which have in a manner undergone a complete suspension of almost nine years, and the intricately involved Affairs of some others, which, unfortunately for them, and painful in the reflection to me, were committed to my care; puts it absolutely out of my power to engage in any new matter, without violence to my own convenience, and injury to those I have in hand. Of this I have informed her Ladyship and my Lord; at the same time I assured them that the trust could not be reposed in better hands than Colo. Hooe's (who consents to act and has the power) and yours, who I took the liberty to say, would either accept the appointment or inform them of the contrary. Mrs. Washington joins me in best respects to Mrs. Randolph, and with great truth and sincere friendship, I am, etc.²⁶

26. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To JOHN HARVIE²⁷

Mount Vernon, February 10, 1784.

Sir: After an absence of almost nine years from home, and a total suspension, as it were to all my private concerns during that period, I am now endeavouring to obtain a knowledge of my affairs and to put my business in some kind of order again. The deranged situation of my papers (occasioned by frequent hasty removals of them out of the enemy's reach) makes it more difficult to affect these, than it otherwise would be; but by some memos. I have lately met with, it would seem that several Land Warrants which I had obtained from Lord Dunmore in my own right, and by purchase from Capt. John Roots and Lieut. (now, or lately the revd. Mr.) Thruston under the Royal Proclamation of 1763, amounting in the whole to 10,000 acres, have, or ought to have been placed in the hands of the Surveyor of Augusta, Botetourt or Fincastle, or partly in all, for execution; but having come across nothing as yet which points precisely to the appropriation of them, and as the offices for those Counties are at a great distance from me, and possibly the Surveyors of them unknown, as there may have been changes within the period above mentioned to which I

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am a stranger; I take the liberty to enquire of you, Sir, whether any Surveys, consequent of these warrants, have been returned to the Land Office since the beginning of the year 1774, in my name; besides one for 2813 acres which I have found a patent for, previous to that date. There were

27. Register of the Virginia Land Office at Richmond.

many Surveys made by Capt: Wm. Crawford, (specially appointed for the purpose) and for which Patents have issued, they being for the 200,000 acres granted by the Proclamation of Govr. Dinwiddie in the year 1754; which I mention that you may not be misled in your researches, by a discovery of these.

If upon examination of the Surveyors reports you should find my Surveys subsequent to the above date, in my name, or in partnership with others, (for I expected to be joined with Genl. Andrew Lewis in a small tract on the waters of the *Great* Kanhawa, including a burning Spring; and with Wm. Crawford in a tract at the confluence of the *little* Kanhawa and Ohio) I shall thank you for information thereof. And as there was some difficulty in the way of the latter, I shou'd be obliged to you for acquainting me if a survey of this spot has ever been returned, in the name of any other person, to the office. It being at the point of fork, will render the search easy, and as one Doctr. Brisco²⁸ set us a claim to it, his name, or that of Michael Cresap of Maryland who appears to have had pretensions of some kind or another to every good spot in the country, may render the search more easy. You will please to advert to the circumstance of there being two Kanhawa's; and that this is distinguished by the appellation of the Little Kanhawa.

Having mentioned the name of Cresap, it reminds me of another matter which I must also request the favor of you to give me information upon, it is, whether if he has had any Surveys returned to the Land Office of this State, among them is one for about five or six hundred acres for a tract which is well known, and distinguished by the name of the round bottom on the Ohio, opposite to Pipe Creek, and a little above a creek called Capteening?

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He has, I find, arrested my Survey of it for 587 acres, made under all the legal forms and upon proper warrants, for no better reason

28. Dr. John Briscoe. (See Washington's letter to Dr. John Briscoe, Dec. 3, 1772, *ante*.)

that I could ever learn, than because it was a good bottom and convenient for him to possess it, and had it in his power to do it with impunity.

The length of time which I have been out of the State, and the changes which may have happened in the Constitution of it since, may render these requests to you Sir, altogether improper; should this really be the Case, it makes an apology to you on my part necessary for the trouble of this application; but I must still pray your compliance with the requests; presuming, if the Land office should have been separated from that of the Secretary's, it is nevertheless kept at Richmond, where you can have recourse to the records of it without much trouble, the doing of which would save time to me, and render a second application from *me* to any other office unnecessary. I am, etc.²⁹

To JOHN STEPHENSON

Fredericksburg, February 13, 1784.

Dear Sir: After condoling with you on the unhappy fate of your Brother William, which I do very sincerely; and upon the Death of your brother Vale.,³⁰ I should be glad to get a copy from both

29. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

30. Valentine Stephenson.

their Books, or Memos. of the accounts as they stand between us; which are of long standing, and I fear not a little intricate. I write to you Sir, because I do not know (if you are not one yourself) who are the Executors or Administrators of those deceased Gentlemen.

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There were also some Land transactions, in partnership and otherwise between your Brother William and me, which I wish to have an account of. If it is in your power therefore, or you should have come across any warrants, Entries, Memoms. or papers relative to this business, which can give me insight into the matter, I shall be much obliged to you for the information.

There is also a Bond in my possession from your deceased brother Hugh (for whose Death I am also very much concerned) with your name, or that of your brother James's to it (I am not certain which as I am from home, and have accidentally met with this good and direct opportunity) for a Sum of money due to me from your Fathers Estate; which I wish to know when it can be settled and paid, as the situation of my private Affairs makes it absolutely necessary to close my Accounts and to receive payment as soon as possible. I am, etc.²⁹

29. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To WILLIAM DREW

Fredericksburg, February 13, 1784.

Sir: In the course of the last eight months, I have addressed two or three letters to you, praying an authenticated copy of the deceased Major Genl. Lee's Will: this I did consequent of a request from his Sister in England to me. Not having received the copy wrote for, nor any acknowledgment of my Letters, I presume the latter have never reached your hands. I therefore give you the trouble of this Letter by Mr. Throckmorton³¹ who has promised the safe conveyance of it to your Office. I wish to be favored, as soon as convenient, with the Will in the manner she requires; the cost of which I will pay when you exhibit the charge. I wou'd send the money by Mr. Throckmorton if I knew what would be the amount of the charge. I am, etc.³²

To GILBERT SIMPSON

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Fredericksburg, February 13, 1784.

Mr. Simpson: Having closed all my transactions with the public, it now behooves me to look into my own private business, no part of which seems to call louder for attention, than my concerns with you. How profitable our partnership has been, *you best can tell* ; and how advantageous my Mill has been, none can tell so well as *yourself* .

31. Albion(?) Throckmorton.

32. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

If however I am to credit the report, not only of one, but every body from that country, I ought to have a good deal of wealth in your hands, arising from the produce of it; because all agree, that it is the best Mill, and has had more custom than any other on the west side the Alleghaney Mountains; I expect something very handsome therefore from that quarter. I want a full settlement of this Account from the beginning, clearly stated. I also require a full and complete settlement of our Partnership accounts, where in every article of debit is to be properly supported by vouchers; and the sums receivd. to be mentioned for what and from whom they were received. In a word I expect every thing relating to the partnership, as well as my individual and separate interests, will appear clear and satisfactory. And as I expect to leave home for a pretty long trip, before or at furthest by middle of April, I think it incumbent upon you to make this settlement previous to it, especially as the world does not scruple to say that you have been much more attentive to your own interest than to mine. But I hope your Accots. will give the lie to these reports, by shewing that something more than your own emolument was intended by the partnership; and that you have acted like an honest, industrious and frugal man for the mutual interest of us both; which will justify the opinion I entertained of you at the time of our agreement, and would be complying with the conditions and professed intention of our associating together.³³

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This Letter will be certain of getting into your hands in the course of ten or twelve days, as it goes by my nephew,³⁴ who I met with at this place, where I had come on a visit; and who is on his way to Fort pitt, &c. The enclosure for Major Stephenson (Brother to the late Colo. Crawford) I wish to have put into his own hands if living; if otherwise, into the hands of Executor or Administrator of Colo. Crawford; as the

33. Ford notes that in December, 1890, a package of 79 pieces of Virginia paper money, of various denominations, was sold at auction in Philadelphia, with a wrapper bearing an indorsement in the writing of Washington, "Given in by Gilb. Simpson, 19 June, 1784, to G. Washington."

34. John Lewis.

contents of it relate principally to some matters between that deceased Gentleman and me.³⁵ I am, &c.³⁶

MEMORANDUM TO JOHN LEWIS

February 14, 1784.

G. Washington would be obliged to Mr. Lewis for delivering, or causing to be deliver'd by a safe hand, the Letter accompanying this, to Mr. Gilbert Simpson, and if he goes by his house to Fort Pitt, for observing the size, and condition of his Plantation: and the condition of the Mill, and for enquiring how many Tenants he has placed on the Land, for how long a term, and upon what Rents. Whether there is any person living upon a small Tract he holds at the Great Meadows; what sort of an improvement is thereon, of whom the person took it and upon what terms. And should Mr. Lewis have a favourable opportunity, the General would be obliged to him for informing those Settlers upon his tract West of the Monongahela, on the waters of Shurtee's and Raccoon creeks³⁷ that he has a patent for the Land, dated the 5th. day of July 1774; that he will most assuredly assert his right to

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it; but, in consideration of their having made improvements thereon ignorantly, or under a mistaken belief, founded in false assertions,

35. Simpson's answer to this letter, dated Apr. 27, 1784, is in the *Washington Papers*.

36. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

37. Known also as Miller's Run. It was part of 3,000 acres purchased by Washington Posey, and was surveyed Mar. 23, 1771.

that the Land did not belong to him, he is willing that they should main upon it as Tenants, upon a just and moderate Rent, such as he and they can agree upon. The like may be said to any Person or Persons who may be settled at a place called the Round Bottom, on the Ohio opposite Pipe Creek and a little above a Creek called Capteening, which has been surveyed by the county Surveyor of Augusta upon proper Warrants from Lord Dunmore, ever since the 14th. day of July 1773.

If Mr. Lewis can discover by indirect means who would be a fit Agent in the Neighbourhood of Fort Pitt to charge with the seating and leasing the Generals Lands in that country without holding up Ideas to them which may lead any one to expect the appointment; he would thank him for the information.

Such parts of these requests as can be complied with before his departure from Fort Pitt, the General would be obliged by receiving them (in a letter) from that place, as he is desirous of getting some knowledge of his affairs in that Country, as soon as possible.³⁸

To ELIAS BOUDINOT

Mount Vernon, February 18, 1784.

Dear Sir: With equal emotions of pleasure and gratitude I received your very polite Letter of the 11th. ulto. from Elizabeth-town, the late acknowledgment of which is owing to the

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interruption of the post, and a visit to my aged Mother; the last of which engaged me several days, and from which I only returned yesterday.

38. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

The private congratulations of friendship, upon my safe return to a peaceful abode, and the sweets of Domestic retirement, never can, with me, be lost in the midst of public ceremonies; and they are received with more pleasure when they are known to flow from a source which has always been the same. The affectionate terms therefore, in which your Letter is expressed, could not fail to affect all my sensibility and to call for a return of my warmest thanks, these I offer most sincerely.

We have now a goodly field before us, and I have no wish superior to that of seeing it judiciously cultivated; that every Man, especially those who have laboured to prepare it, may reap a fruitful Harvest without the intermixture of Tares; the seeds of which I am sure are too apparent to be sown by a skilful husbandman, who possesses a disposition to be honest.

It was with extreme pain I read that part of your Letter which speaks of the declining State of Miss Boudinots health. As the intemperence of the weather may have contributed thereto, so it is to be hoped the approaching season will remove the causes of the complaint, and restore her to good health, and to her friends; in this wish, and in most affectionate Compliments to Mrs. Boudinot and yourself, Mrs. Washington heartily joins.

With the greatest sincerity and truth, I am, etc.⁴⁵

45. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To MRS. ANNIS BOUDINOT STOCKTON

Mount Vernon, February 18, 1784.

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Dr. Madam: The intemperate weather, and the very great care which the post riders take of themselves, prevented your Letter of the 4th. of last month⁴⁶ from reaching my hands 'till the 10th. of this: I was then in the very act of setting off on a visit to my aged mother, from whence I am just returned. These reasons I beg leave to offer, as an apology for my silence 'till now.

It would be a pity indeed, My dear Madam, if the Muses should be restrained in you. I have only to lament that the hero of your poetical talents, is not more deserving of their lays. I cannot however, from motives of false delicacy (because I happen to be the principal character in your pastoral) withhold my encomiums on the performance for I think, the easy, simple and beautiful strains with which the Dialogue is supported do great justice to your genius, and will not only secure Lucinda and Aminta from Wits and Critic's, but draw from them, however unwillingly, their highest plaudits, if they can relish the praises that are given, as highly as they must admire the manner of bestowing them.

Mrs. Washington, equally sensible with myself, of the honor you have done her, joins me in most affectionate compliments to yourself, the young Ladies and Gentlemen of your family. With sentiments of esteem, regard and respect, I have the honor, etc.⁴⁷

46. Not now found in the *Washington Papers*.

47. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To BOINOD & GAILLARD⁴⁸

Mount Vernon, February 18, 1784.

Gentlemen: I have been favored with your polite and obliging Letter of January the 20th., and thank you for the many flattering sentiments contained in it.

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To encourage Literature and the Arts, is a duty which every good Citizen owes to his Country, and if I could be instrumental in promoting these, and in aiding your endeavours to do the like, it would give me pleasure.

Your Books being chiefly in a foreign Language (which I do not understand) and my Library containing the most valuable of those which are named in the English catalogue, my demand will be small; but if those mentioned below are yet in your Store, they may be laid by, or sent to me as occasion offers, and the cost shall be paid to your Order. I am, etc.

An Accot. of the new Northn., Archipelago, by M. I. Von Strahlin. 8 Vos., The Histry. of the Ud. provinces of the Netherlands by Wm. Lothian, 4to. A review of the characters of the principal Nations in Europe, 2 Vols, 8 vo. Hermes, or a phloe. enquiry, concerning Languages &ca. by J. H. 8 vo. The true French master, or rules for the Fh. tongue by Mr. Cheneau of Paris, 8 vo The new pocket Docty. of the Fh. and Eng: lange. by Thos. Nugent 2 vols. 8 vo A course of Gallantires, translated from the Freh. of M. Duclos 2 parts, 8 vo. The rise, progress and prest. state of the Northn. Govts. by I. Williams Esqr. 2 Vols. 4to.49

48. Of Philadelphia, Pa.

49. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To JAMES MILLIGAN⁴⁰

Mount Vernon, February 18, 1784.

Sir: The intemperance of the weather, and the great care which the post riders seemed disposed to take of themselves, while it continued severe; prevented your Letter of the 13th. of last month from reaching my hands 'till the 10th. of this. I now acknowledge the receipt of it, with the accounts as they stand stated in the Treasury Books; for your

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trouble in transcribing which (it being unusual) you will please to accept my thanks, as the possession of them is pleasing, and may be useful to me.

The charge of fifty guineas paid James McCall Esqr. for the Revd. Mr. Smith,⁴¹ is perfectly just, and ought not to have been omitted by me, for I well recollect it was the desire of Mr. Morris, that this sum might be carried to the credit of my public Accots., and I certainly meant to do it, altho' it has been omitted. For the act of justice which you have rendered, in allowing me interest upon 591 31/90 Dollars, I am much indebted to you: the same reason which induced an allowance of interest on the Balce. of my Accot. to Jany. 1777, prevailed in this case also; but as the principal was rescued from error, and brought into a subsequent Accot., I never thought about interest; and am altogether indebted to your attention and correctness for the discovery and credit.

In the statement of my Accots., I thought a note had accompanied the articles charged where the money had been accounted for; but in this I am either mistaken, or do not perfectly comprehend your manner of entry; from which, to me it would seem, that Saml. B. Webb, Ebenr. Gray, Josiah Fessendon, Elijah Bennet, Capt. Calmly⁴² and John Philips in Accot. A. Colo. Weedon, for 500 Dollars (but this sum is again credited), Wm. Dunn, Josh. Hunter, Hugh Mooney, John Miller and Chal. Tatum, in Accot. C. And Capt. Colfax and Lt. Howe in

40. Comptroller of the Treasury of the United States.

41. Rev. William Smith.

42. Capt. Myles(?) Oakley (Calmly).

Accot. D, were to be charged in Accots. raised, or to be raised, with the several sums annexed to their respective names; whereas the money in every one of these enumerated instances has been paid for services actually performed, or upon Accots. which have been settled with me. I am thus particular Sir, because it would give me pain, if thro' any

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inaccuracy in my statement, either of these persons should be involved in trouble, difficulty or expence, by a future call upon them. Captn. Colfax, as you may perceive from his Accots. which I render'd as vouchers to my own, gave the public credit for all the sums he stands charged with by me; among which is that for £171:18., and closes the whole with a transfer of the money in his hands to Mr. Howe. Mr. Howe also, as will appear in his accounts, settled the Expenditures for family purposes with me in November last; at the time I broke up House-keeping and discharged my household; and if I recollect right, was a Creditor instead of a Debtor to the public.

I shall take notice in this Letter, because it is not my wish to encrease the troubles of your Office by making a distinct application hereafter, that in Accot. B. I stand charged with the sums of £124.7.8 and £133.16.0 which have no existence in the Treasury Books, or elsewhere. The first sum I well remember to have received; the time and circumstances of it being too remarkable ever to be forgotten by me.⁴³ But the other sum of £133.16. I must confess I have no recollection of the receipt of it; but having found in my pocket Memo. Book, a short and blind entry to that effect, I placed it to the credit of the public Accot., altho' no trace of it remains in my memory, or any Accot. of it could

43. This sum, in specie, was received from Robert Morns Jan. 1, 1777, the day before the battle of the Assunpink at Trenton, N.J.

be found elsewhere; with a request (in a Note at bottom) that the matter might be enquired into, and justice done. It occurs to me, that about the period of that credit, I borrowed a sum in specie of the Marqs. de la Fayette (as I had done of others when the exigencies of the public pressed) and that he and my nephew Geo: Augte. Washington got off for Philadelphia a few days afterwards: 'tis *possible* therefore I might have written for money by him, and that that sum may have been charg'd to his accot., but if this is not the case, and no such sum can be found charged to me in any of the public Offices, of that date, under any form whatsoever, I submit it to the consideration of yourself, or to the Superintendent of Finance whether I ought to be debited with it at all; because it is as

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likely that the error may have originated in a wrong credit on my part, as in the omission to charge it, on that of the public; especially as I have received several sums at different time on my private account, as well as other sums for the use of Colo. Fairfax (whose business I had in my hands several years before the War), all of which I applied to public uses, whenever the public had a call for it, without attending to the property, or propriety of the measure. Upon this state of the matter, which is a very candid one, I should be glad to have your sentiments, and those of the Financer. I am perfectly willing to give the public credit for every thing that is due, but it does not comport with my circumstances to do more, or even to lie out of money which I may with propriety call to my aid.

The Account of my expenditures in Philadelphia and on my return home, I transmitted many days previous to the receipt of your Letter to Mr. Morris, and presume it is in your Office long before this; and that I shall have the pleasure of receiving, as in the case of the former, an official statement of it from the Treasury books.

For the honor of your kind congratulations on the great events which have taken place, and my return to domestic life, be pleased to accept my grateful thanks, and best wishes, in return. I am, etc.⁴⁴

***To MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX**

Mount Vernon, February 20, 1784.

My dear Sir: The bad weather, and the great care which the Post Riders take of themselves, prevented your letters of the 3d. and 9th. of last month from getting to my hands 'till the 10th. of this. Setting off next Morning for Fredericksburgh to pay my duty to an aged Mother, and not returning 'till yesterday, will be admitted I hope, as a sufficient apology for my silence 'till now.

I am much obliged by the trouble you have taken to report the state of the Garrison and Stores, together with the disposition of the Troops at West-Point, to me, and think the

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allowance of Rations, or subsistence money to such Officers as could not retire at that inclement season, was not only perfectly humane, but perfectly just. and that it must appear so to Congress.

It would seem to me, without having recourse to calculation, that the allowance of a Majr. General in a seperate department, to the person who

44. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

shall discharge the duties of Secretary at War, Master of Ordnance, and Commanding Officer of the Forces which may be retained, or Raised for a Peace Establish-merit is as low as it well can be. I expect the President and some Members of Congress here in a day or two, and will tell them so.

It was amongst my first Acts after I got home, to write to the President of each State Society, appointing Philadelphia (and the first Monday in May) for the general meeting of the Cincinnati. Colo. Walker took with him all the Letters for those Eastward of this, before New Years day; the others for the Southward, I dispatched by the Post about the sametime; I have even sent duplicates for fear of miscarriage; yet 'though it is the most eligible method, it is to be feared it will not prove so effectual a communication, as a general notification in the public Gazettes would have been. And, in case of failure, I shall be exceedingly concerned for not having adopted the most certain; as it would give me pleasure to have the first general meeting, a very full one. I have named Philadelphia (contrary to my own judgment, as it is not Central) to comply with the wishes of South Carolina, who, being the most Southern State, have desired it. North Carolina I have not heard a tittle from, nor any thing Official from New Hampshire. all the other States have acceded very unanimously to the propositions which were sent from the Army.

I am just beginning to experience that ease, and freedom from public cares which, however desirable, takes some time to realize; for strange as it may tell, it is nevertheless true, that it was not 'till lately I could get the better of my usual custom of ruminating as

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soon as I waked in the Morning, on the business of the ensuing day; and of my surprize, after having revolved many things in my mind, to find that I was no longer a public Man, or had any thing to do with public transactions.

I feel now, however, as I conceive a wearied Traveller must do, who, after treading many a painful step, with a heavy burden on his shoulders, is eased of the latter, having reached the Goal to which all the former were directed; and from his House top is looking back, and tracing with a grateful eye the Meanders by which he escaped the quicksands and Mires which lay in his way; and into which none but the All-powerful guide, and great disposer of human Events could have prevented his falling.

I shall be very happy, and I hope I shall not be disappointed, in seeing you at the proposed meeting in Philadelphia. The friendship I have conceived for you will not be impaired by absence, but it may be no unpleasing circumstance to brighten the Chain, by a renewal of the Covenant. My best wishes attend Mrs. Knox and the little folks, in which Mrs. Washington most heartily joins me. With every sentiment of the purest esteem &c.

P.S. I hope Genl Greene will be in the Delegation from Rhode Island, and that we shall see him at the Genl meeting of the Cincinnati; will you intimate this to him.

[MS.H.S.]

To RICHARD VARICK

Mount Vernon, February 22, 1784.

Dear Sir: The intemperate season and irregularity of the post withheld your Letter of the 15th. ulto., from me 'till within these few days. There needed no apology for delay in the adjustment of your Accots., your punctuality is too well known to admit a doubt that this would happen without sufficient cause.

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I received great pleasure from the account which you have given me of Doctor La Moyeur's operation on you, and congratulate you very sincerely on the success. I shall claim your promise of relating the sequel, for I confess I have been staggered in my belief in the efficacy of transplantation,⁵² being more disposed to think that the *Operator* is partial to his own performances, and the persons operated upon, in general are inclined to compliment; or having submitted to the operation, are somewhat unwilling to expose the truth. but your accot. I can; I will rely upon.

If contrary to expectation this Letter should find Doctr. La Moyeur in New York, let me pray you to present my compliments to him, and tell him that his letter of the 20th. is at hand; that I should have answered it, but for the information he there gave me, of his intention of setting out in a few days for Virginia; and that I shall whenever it is convenient to him, and not before, be very glad to see him at this Seat, where he, as you would at all times, meet a cordial and welcome reception. I thank you very sincerely for your kind congratulations on my return to the tranquil walks of private life. I shall always be glad to hear from you, and shall depend upon you for the relation of the remarkable occurrences in your Hemisphere. Mrs. Washington joins me in best wishes for yourself, and compliments. to the Govr. Mrs. C.⁵³ and Family. I am, etc.⁵⁴

52. Of living teeth.

53. Governor and Mrs. Clinton.

54. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To DANIEL McCARTY

Mount Vernon, February 22, 1784.

Dr. Sir: It is not convenient for me to be at Colchester tomorrow, and as I shall no longer act as a vestryman,⁵⁰ the sooner my place is filled with another the better. This letter, or

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something more formal if required, may evidence my resignation, and authorize a new choice.

I shall be very sorry if your apprehensions on account of the poor should be realized, but have not the Church-Wardens power to provide for their relief? And may not those Vestrymen who do meet, supposing the number insufficient to constitute a *legal* Vestry, express their sentiments on this head to the Wardens? Nay go further, and from the exigency of the case, give directions for the temporary relief of the needy and distressed. As a Vestryman or as a private parishioner, I should have no scruple to do either under such circumstances as you have described.

Mrs. Washington joins in compliments and best wishes for you, Mrs. McCatry and family with Dr. Sir Your, etc.⁵¹

***To ARTHUR ST. CLAIR**

Mount Vernon, February 22, 1784.

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 29th. of Jany. in answer to my circular Letter of the 28th. of Deer. is at hand. I am sorry to find by it, that so many Delegates from your State

50. Of Truro Parish, Va.

51. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

Society are likely to be Non-attendants at the General Meeting in May. It would have an odd appearance (whatever may be the causes) for the Society of the State, in which the General Meeting is held, to be unrepresented upon such an occasion; and it would give me concern, I confess, to find any so; for it is my wish that the first meeting (at least) may be full. Not only for the purpose of bare representation then, but that the Abilities of the Society of Cincinnati may be convened at that time, I hope your business elsewhere may,

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without much inconvenience, be made to yield to this call for your attendance. With great truth and sincerity, I am etc.

To DOLPHIN DREW⁵⁵

Mount Vernon, February 25, 1784.

Sir: Yesterday evening brought me your favor of the 13th.

Two things induced me to Lease my Lands in small tenements; the first was to accommodate weak handed people who were not able to purchase, thereby inviting and encouraging a number of useful Husbandmen and Mechanicks to settle among us: The other, that I might have them restored to me at the expiration of the term for wch. they were granted, in good order and well improved. One step towards which was to prevent a shift of property without my consent, and a covenant was inserted in the Leases accordingly.

From the first I laid it down as a maxim, that no person who possessed Lands adjoining, should hold any of mine as a Lease, and for this obvious reason, that the weight of their labour, and burden of the crops, whilst it was in a condition to bear them, would fall upon my Land, and the improvement upon his own, in spite of all the covenants which could be inserted to prevent it. Having no cause to depart from this opinion, and without meaning to apply the observation particularly to Mr. Throckmorton,⁵⁶ whose person and character are entirely unknown to me, he must excuse me for declaring in very explicit terms, that I will not suffer his purchase of Collet, to be carried into effect. of this, Mr. Lund Washington who was acquainted with my sentiments on all these matters, and who superintended my business, informs me he acquainted Mr. Throckmorton (hearing he was about to purchase) either directly or by means of his acquaintance in September last: he has not paid his money

55. Of Berkeley County, Va.

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56. Albion Throckmorton.

therefore, or erred in this business, without warning of the consequences.

A good price and ready money might induce me to part with the fee-simple of Collet's Lot, perhaps of the other also. Without these I do not incline to sell as Lands are rising very fast in their price; which will be enhanced by the emigration of Foreigners, and the demand for them. I am, &c.57

To ISAAC COLLETT58

Mount Vernon, February 25, 1784.

Mr. Collett: It would have been quite as proper to have written about the payment of your Rents, as a transfer of the Lease. When the Averages of the former are discharged, it is very probable I shall have no objection to the latter, provided it is to a purchaser who means to reside on, and will improve the Land. Until these happen I shall consent to no sale at all, and advise you to attend to the first, Your humble Servant.

57. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

58. He lived at the head of Bull Skin, in Berkeley County, Va.

On February 25 Washington wrote a brief note to Chevalier de La Luzerne, thanking him for forwarding a letter from Lafayette, and regretting that Luzerne did not come to Mount Vernon. This copy is in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

To FIELDING LEWIS59

Mount Vernon, February 27, 1784.

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Dear Fieldg.: You very much mistake my circumstances when you suppose me in a condition to advance money. I made no money from my Estate during the nine years I was absent from it, and brought none home with me. those who owed me, for the most part, took advantage of the depreciation and paid me off with six pence in the pound. those to whom I was indebted, I have yet to pay, without other means, if they will not wait, than selling part of my Estate; or distressing those who were too honest to take advantage of the tender Laws to quit scores with me.

This relation of my circumstances, which is a true one, is alone sufficient (without adding that my living under the best œconomy I can use, must unavoidably be expensive,) to convince you of my inability to advance money.

I have heard with pleasure that you are industrious. Convince people by your mode of living that you are sober and frugal also; and I persuade myself your creditors will grant you every indulgence they can. It would be no small inducement to me, if it should ever be in my power, to assist you.

Your Father's advice to you in his Letter of the 8th. of October 1778 is worthy the goodness of his own heart, and very excellent to follow; if I could say anything to enforce it, it should not be wanting.

I shall always be glad to see you here; your Aunt joins me in best wishes and I am, etc.

59. Son of Betty Washington.

P. S. There was a great space between the 23d. of September 1778, when you were called upon by your Father for a specific list of your Debts, and his death: how happen'd it that in all that time you did not comply with his request? And what do they amount to now? His Letters to you are returned, and I hope will get safe to hand.60

To JOHN HARVIE

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Mount Vernon, February 29, 1784.

Sir: I have received, and thank you for your obliging favor of the 21st. in answer to my letter of the 10th. I will write to the Surveyors of Augusta and Botetourt for information in those matters which the Land office is unable to give me: for sure I am, I have warrants somewhere which ought, long 'ere this, to have been executed. The two Surveys of which you sent me copies, I should be glad to have patents for, reciting the right under which I hold them, as soon as it is convenient to yourself. I have the honor, etc.⁶¹

To SIMEON DE WITT

Mount Vernon, March 3, 1784.

Dr. Sir: By the interruptions of the post, your letter dated the 12th. of Jany. never got to my hands until Sunday last.

I have urged, not only in public, but private conversations with individual members of Congress, the policy, indeed necessity of having accurate Maps of the United States, and they know

60. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

61. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

full well my opinion of your worth, and ability to execute them. All seem sensible of these, but the want of funds I suppose, stops this, as it does many other wheels which ought to move.

The propositions contained in your Memr. of the 12th. to Congress,⁶³ appear to me exceedingly reasonable and just: these sentiments I will express to a very valuable and much respected member of that Body to whom I am now writing. I am, etc.⁶⁴

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***To THOMAS JEFFERSON**

Mount Vernon, March 3, 1784.

Dear Sir: The last Post brought me the enclosed letter, under cover from the Marquis de la Fayette. If you have any News that you are at liberty to impart it would be charity to communicate a little of it, to a body.

It is unnecessary, I hope, to repeat to you the Assurances of the pleasure I should feel at seeing you at this retreat, or of the sincere esteem and regard with which I am, etc.

P S. Has not Congress received a Memorial from, Mr. De Witt, now, or lately Geographer to the Northern Army? The propositions which are contained in the Copy, which he sent me, seem founded in equity. and with respect to himself, I can assure you he is a modest, sensible, sober, and deserving young Man. Esteemed a very good Mathematician, and well worthy encouragement.⁶²

63. Publication of maps of the Revolutionary War.

64. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

62. From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress

On March 3 Washington forwarded, in a brief note to Robert Morris, Morris's warrant on Treasurer Michael Hillegas, indorsed as requested: "I thank you for the trouble you have taken to negotiate the matter with Govt. Clinton." This copy is in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

To JOHN WITHERSPOON

Mount Vernon, March 10, 1784.

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Revd. Sir: The recourse which I have had to my papers since I returned home, reminds me of a question which you asked me in Philadelphia, respecting my Lands to the westward of the Allighaney mountains; to which I was unprepared, at that time to give a decided answer, either as to the quantity I had to let, or the terms upon which I would Lease them.

Upon examination, I find that I have Patents under the signature of Lord Dunmore, (while he administered the Govermt. of this State) for about 30,000 acres; and Surveys for about 10,000 more; Patents for which were suspended by the disputes with Gr. Britain, which soon follow'd the return of the warrts. to the Land office.

Ten thousand acres of the above thirty lie upon the Ohio; the rest on the Great Kanhawa; a river nearly as large, and quite as easy in its navigation as the former. The whole of it is rich bottom land, beautifully situated on these rivers and abounding plentifully in Fish, wild fowl, and

Game of all kinds.

The uppermost tract upon the Ohio (which I incline to lease) contains 2314 acres, and begins about four miles below the mouth of the Little Kanhawa (there are two rivers bearing that name, the uppermost of which is about 180 miles below Fort Pitt by water) and has a front on the water of more than five miles. The next is 18 miles lower down, and contains 2448 acres; with a front on the river, and a large creek which empty's into it, of four miles and upwards. Three miles below this again (on the same river) and just above what is called the Big Bend in Evans's map, is a third tract of 4395 acres, with a river front of more than five miles.

Then going to the *Great* Kanhawa distant about twelve miles by land, but thirty odd to follow the meanders of the two rivers, and beginning within three miles of the mouth, I hold Lands on the right and left of the river, and bounded thereby, forty eight miles and an half;

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all of which (being on the margin of the river, and extending not more than from half a mile to a mile back) is, as has been observed before, rich low grounds.

From this description of my Lands, with the aid of Evans's or Hutchins's map of that Country, a good general knowledge of their situation may be obtained by those who incline to become adventurers in the settlement of them; but it may not be improper to observe further, that they were surveyed under the royal Proclamation of 1763 (granting to each commissioned and non-commissioned officer according to his rank, and to the private Soldier, certain quantities) and under a yet older proclamation from Mr. Dinwiddie, then Lieut. governor of the Colony; issued

by the advice of his Council to encourage and benefit the military adventurers of the year 1754, while the Land office was shut against all other applicants: It is not reasonable to suppose therefore, that those who had the first choice; had five years allowed them to make it; and a large District to survey in; were inattentive either to the quality of the Soil, or the advantages of situation.

But supposing no preeminence in quality, the title to these Lands is indisputable; and by laying on the South East side of the Ohio, they are not subject to the claims of the Indians; consequently will be free from their disturbances; and from the disputes, in which the settlers on the No. West side (when the Indians shall permit any), and even on the same side, lower down, will be involved in with one another; for it should seem, that there is already location upon location, and scarce any thing else talked of but land-jobbing and monopolies, before Congress have even settled the terms upon which the ceded Lands are to be obtained.

Having given this account of the Land, I am brought to another point which is more puzzling to me than description.

I have been long endeavouring to hit upon some mode, by which the Grantor and Grantees of these Lands, might be mutually considered, and equally satisfied; but find

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it no easy matter; as it is to be presumed that all adventurers, especially emigrants from foreign Countries, would not only *chuse* , but *expect* Leases for a long term. In this case, it is difficult in an infant Country, where lands rise progressively, and I might add rapidly in value, to fix upon a rent which will not in the first instance, startle the Tenant by its magnitude, or injure the Land-lord in the course of a few years by the inadequacy of it. What course then is to be taken?

To advance the rent periodically, in proportion to the *supposed* increasing value of the Land, is very speculative. And

to leave it to the parties or their representatives, or to persons to be chosen by them, at like stated periods to determine the increase of it, would not only be vague and uncertain, but more than probably open a door for many disputes, and prove very unsatisfactory to both sides. Yet, difficult as the case is, private and public considerations urging me thereto, I have come to a resolution which I am going to promulge in the Gazettes of this Country, by inserting an advertisement, of which the enclosed is a copy, leaving it optional in the Grantees to make choice of *either* .

Whether the terms there promulged, are sufficiently encouraging to the people of this Country, and inviting to strangers; or whether the latter might think so in the first instance, and change sentiments afterwards, upon seeing a wide, a wild and an extensive country before them, in which they may for ought I know, obtain good, tho' not so valuable and pleasant spots, upon easier terms; is not with me to decide, experiment alone can determine it. But it is for me to declare, that I cannot think of separating for ever from Lands which are beautifully situated upon navigable rivers; rich in quality, and abundantly blessed with many natural advantages, upon less beneficial terms to myself.

The Leases for short tenures, if these should be preferred to either of the other two, could be attended with no greater injury to me, because the improvements which (according to the conditions of them) are to be made thereon, will enable me, if I am not too sanguine in

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my expectation, to rent them thereafter upon more lucrative terms than I dare ask for either of the other two at present.

It has been my intention in every thing I have said, and will be so in every thing I shall say on this subject, to be perfectly candid; for my feelings would be as much hurt, if I shou'd deceive others by a too favourable description, as theirs would be who might suffer by the deception.

I will only add, that it would give me pleasure to see these Lands seated by particular Societies, or religious Sectaries with their Pastors. It would be a means of connecting friends in a small circle, and making life, in a new and rising Empire (to the Inhabitants of which, and their habits new comers would be strangers) pass much more agreeably, than in a mixed, or dispersed situation.

If a plan of this sort should be relished, it would be highly expedient for an agent, in behalf of such Societies, to come out immediately, to view the Lands and dose a bargain; for nothing is more probable, than that each of the Tracts here enumerated may, if the matter is delayed, have settlers upon it; an intermixture with whom might not be agreeable.

The number of Families which these tracts agregately, or each one separately would accommodate, depends more upon the views of the occupiers, than on any other circumstance. The soil is capable of the greatest production (such as Europeans have little idea of); for *mere support* then, the smallest quantity would suffice; which I mention in this place, because a plan for the settlement of them (under the information here given of the quantity, quality and situation) can be as well digested in Europe, as on the Land itself, so far as it respects support only; and is to be prefered to a waste of time in ascertaining on the spot, the number it would receive, and what each man shall have, before the association is formed.

I will make no apology, my good Sir, for the length of this Letter, presuming

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from your enquiries, when I had the pleasure of seeing you last in Philadelphia, that you would not be displeased at the information I now give you, and might have a wish to communicate it to others. My best wishes attend you; with sentiments of great esteem etc.⁶⁵

ADVERTISEMENT

Mount Vernon, March [10,] 1784.

The subscriber would Lease about 30,000 acres of land on the Ohio and Great Kanhawa, for which he has had Patents ten or twelve years. Ten thousand of these, in three Tracts, lie upon the Ohio, between the mouths of the two Kanhawa's; having a front upon the river of 15 miles, and beautifully border'd by it. The remaining 20,000 acres, in four other Surveys, lie upon the Great Kanhawa, from the mouth, or near it, upwards. These four Tracts (together) have a margin upon *that* river, (by which they are bound) of more than forty miles.

After having said thus much of the Land, it is almost superfluous to add that the whole of it is river low-grounds of the first quality; but it is essential to remark that a great deal of it may be converted into the finest mowing ground imaginable, with little or no labour.

65. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

Nature, and the water-stops which have been made by the Beaver, having done *more* to effect this, than years of hard labour in most other rich soils; and that the Land back of these bottoms, must forever render the latter uncommonly profitable for Stock, on account of the extensiveness of the range; as it is of a nature (being extremely broken) not to be seated or cultivated.

These Lands may be had on three tenures: First, until Jany. 1795, and no longer; Second, until Jany. 1795, renewable every ten years forever. Third, for 999 years.

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The rents, Conditions and priviledges as follow.

First, An exemption for rent three years upon condition that five acres for every hundred, and proportionably for a greater or lesser quantity contained in the Lease, shall within that space be cleared and tilled, or in order for the latter; and a house, fit for the comfortable accommodation of the Tenant, erected on the premises.

Second, That before the expiration of the term of the Leases of the first tenure; or the first ten years of those of the second and third; a dwelling house of Brick or Stone, or of framed work with a stone or brick chimney; and a good Barn, suited to the size of the Tenement shall be built thereon. An orchard of good fruit, to consist of as many trees as there are acres specified in the lease, planted and enclosed; And five acres for every hundred, and proportionably for a greater or lesser quantity, improved into meadows; which, or the like quantity, shall always be retained for mowing.

Third, The land to be accurately measured to each Grantee; who will be allowed to take in regular for (with an extension back proportioned to the front on the river) as much as his inclination, or ability may require; which quantity shall be secured to him and

his Heirs, by Lease in the usual form, with proper clauses binding on Landlord and Tenant, for the performance of covenants.

Fourth. A Spanish milled Dollar of the present coin, shall pass in payment of the rent for six shillings; and other current Gold and Silver coin, in that proportion.

Fifth. The staple commodity, or other article of produce (for the greater ease and convenience of the Tenant) may be substituted in lieu of money rents in the Leases, if the Parties, at, or before the first rent shall become due, can agree upon a medium value for it.

Sixth. If the exigency or policy of the State in which these Lands lie, should at any time impose a tax upon them, or their appendages; such tax is to be borne by the Tenant.

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Seventh. These conditions &ca. being common to the Leases of the three different tenures, the rent. Of the First. Will be four pounds per anu: for every hundred acres contained in the lease, and proportionably for a greater or lesser quantity.

Of the Second. One shilling for every acre contained in the Lease, until the year 1795. One shilling and six pence for the like quantity afterwards, 'till the year 1815. And the like increase per acre every ten years 'till the rent amounts to, and shall have remained at, five shillings for the ten years next ensuing; after which it is to increase three pence pr. acre every ten years for ever.

Of the Third. Two shillings for every acre therein contained; at which it will remain for 999 years, the term for which it is granted.

The situation of these Lands is not only pleasant, but in any point of view in which they can be considered, must be exceedingly advantageous, for if the produce of the Country, according to the ideas of some, shou'd go down the Mississippi, they are nearly as convenient for that transportation, having the Stream without any obstruction in it to descend, as those which are now settling about the Falls of the Ohio, and upon Kentucky, (to the choice of which, among other reasons, people were *driven* by the Grants to the Officers and Soldiers, of which these are part, in the upper Country, and from the impracticability of obtaining Lands in extensive bodies elsewhere). If it shou'd come by way of Fort Pitt, to Potomac, (which is the most natural⁶⁶) or to the Susquehannah, by the Great Kanhawa to James river, or by the Lakes Erie and Ontario to New York, they are infinitely more so, being, according to Hutchins's table of distances, 422 miles, all of which is against the Stream, nearer to those markets than the Settlements last mentioned. And what, in the present situation of things, is a matter of no trifling consideration, no other claims can interfere with those; patents having been long granted for the Land, and the property of it well known; and besides, by laying on the So. East side of the Ohio can

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give no jealousy to the Indians, the proprietors of it therefore, may cultivate their Farms in peace, and fish, fowl and hunt without fear or molestation.

Altho' I do not lay any stress upon it, the presumption being that the Indians during the late war, have laid all in ruins, yet it is of record in the Courts of Botetourt and Fincastle (in which Counties the land did lay) that buildings, Meadows and other improvements which were made thereon in the years 1774 and 1775, designed for the accommodation of Tenants, cost the subscriber, as appears by the oaths of sworn appraisers conformably to the directions of an Act of the Assembly, of Virginia for seating and cultivating Lands,

66. This word is omitted in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*, and is supplied from the printed advertisement.

£1568:18:7½ equal to £1961.3.3, Maryland, Pennsylvania or Jersey currency.

These Lands being peculiarly well adapted for small Societies who may incline to live detached and retired; any such applying in a body or by their pastors or Agents, shall have every assistance and encouragement, which can with convenience and propriety be given by, G: W—n.67

To CLEMENT BIDDLE

Mount Vernon, March 10, 1784.

Dear Sir: Since last post I have received the Lace and two pole chain, accompanied by your favors of the 22d. and 29th. ulto. for which I thank you.

From what you have written concerning the Sieves, it is to be feared I did not sufficiently explain myself in speaking to the sizes of the meshes. You say, "the largest is of iron wire, as there was none of brass so coarse in Town" and again, "the second and third are of brass wire, and there is no wire finer than of thirty meshes to an inch." The coarseness, or finess of the wire was not what I had in contemplation, but the size of the meshes which

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were to be formed by *that wire* : you therefore have misunderstood me, or I misunderstood you, unless (which is more

67. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*. This advertisement appeared in the *Pennsylvania Packet* of Apr. 27, 1784, and other papers of various dates.

probable, and if the case is so, all things are yet right), the wire being imported in its woven state, was only to be had of the sizes mentioned in your letter; and which, with as much of the kind for boulding (32 to the inch) as will make one seive, will answer all my purposes very well. Be so good as to let me know what you call a *packet* of edging; which you say is at various prices, from one to three Dollars, and how many yards, that is, what length a packet will cover. Also the price of the plain blue, green, and yellow paper pr. piece, with the number of yards in a piece, when I get your answer to these queries, I will determine at once whether to buy, or not to buy.

Mrs. Washington joins in best wishes to Mrs. Biddle and Mrs. Shaw with, Dr. Sir, Your, etc.⁶⁸

To LAWRENCE MUSE

Mount Vernon, March 11, 1784.

Sir: Having luckily found some printed blank Deeds, I am enabled to dispatch your business sooner than I expected.

The return of these Deeds to me, executed before proper Evidences, will entitle you to receive the Sum I expressed a willingness to pay you, on Accot. of your Fathers expences to the Ohio.

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Should Deeds (which I do not believe is the case) have been executed before for the 3323 acres specified in those now sent, no bad consequences can follow the second signing of them, as both would express the same thing

68. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

but it would induce, and warrant my paymt. of the above mentioned money, from which good may result.

I hope the Witnesses will be such as expect to attend the next Generl. Court, that there may be no hazard of the proof and the sooner I can get them returned to me the better, as the time is now short. Or, instead of bringing them back to me, a letter from my friend Colo. Edmd. Pendleton, assuring me that they are in his hands, properly executed, and that he will carry or send them to the Court for recording, will be preferable.

If no Deed should have passed for the 200 acres in the other tract adjoining (which I am entitled to by purchase from Mr. William Bronaugh) and which was to have been given in exchange, with other considerations for the 3323 herein mentioned, I will, without delay, cause them to be executed, and, in the mean time, pass my Bond for the title.

But from what you said respecting this matter, and from the tenor of your Fathers⁶⁹ Letter to me of the 6th. of Jany. 1775,⁷⁰ which I shewed you, there can be little doubt of its having happened already. I am, etc.

PS. Not knowing whether your father has a wife living or not, I have drawn the release on that supposition.⁷¹

69. Col. George Muse.

70. A copy of his letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

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71. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

***To THOMAS JEFFERSON**

Mount Vernon, March 15, 1784.

Dear Sir: The Baron de Steuben informs me, that he is about to make a final Settlement with Congress; and to obtain from them that compensation which his Services shall appear to have merited; having entered into no stipulation at the time he engaged in the Service, either for Pay or emoluments; chusing rather to let his Services point to their own rewards (after they were performed) than to set a value upon them before hand. Wishing, on the hand, for nothing more than they deserved; on the other, convinced that the honor and dignity of the Sovereign power of these States would do him justice, if our cause should be crowned with success, if not, he would share their fortunes, and fall with them.

What the Barons expectations are, if he should incline to make them known, can be explained by himself; but this I have heard him say, that to be placed in the same situation he was when he came to this Country, would content him. What this was I know not, but it should seem that, if a Foreigner gets nothing by the Service, he ought not to loose by it.

My Sentiments with respect to the importance of the Barons Services have been delivered to Congress in so many instances, and he himself has received such repeated testimonies of it, that it is unnecessary for me, in this place (especially as I have laid aside my Military character, and am disinclined to trouble Congress any longer with my application) to give fresh proofs of my approbation of his abilities and conduct, tending to the same points. But I could wish to see his merit, which is great; and his Services which have been eminent, rewarded to his satisfaction. I am etc.⁷²

72. From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

To BARON STEUBEN

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Mount Vernon, March 15, 1784.

My Dear Baron: I have perused with attention the plan which you have formed for establishing a Continental Legion, and for training a certain part of the Arms bearing men of the Union as a Militia in times of peace; and with the small alterations which have been suggested and made, I very much approve of it.

It was no unpleasing, and flattering circumstance to me, to find such a coincidence of ideas as appear to run thro' your plan, and the one I had the honor to lay before a Committee of Congress in May last. Mine however, was a hasty production, the consequence of a sudden call, and little time for arrangement. Yours of maturer thought and better digestion, I, at the same time that I hinted the *propriety* of a Continental Militia; glided almost insensibly into what I thought *would*, rather than what I conceived *ought* to be a proper peace Establishment for this Country.

A peace establishment ought always to have two objects in view. The one present security of Posts, of Stores and the public tranquillity. The other, to be prepared, if the latter is impracticable, to resist with efficacy, the sudden attempts of a foreign or domestic enemy. If we have no occasion of Troops for the first purposes, and were certain of not wanting any for the second; then all expence of every nature and kind whatsoever on this score, would be equally nugatory and unjustifiable; but while men have a disposition to wrangle, and to disturb the peace of Society, either from ambitious, political or interested motives, common prudence and foresight requires such an

establishment as is likely to ensure to us the blessings of Peace, altho' the undertaking should be attended with difficulty and expence; and I can think of no plan more likely to answer the purpose, than the one you have suggested; which (the principle being established) may be enlarged, or diminished at pleasure, according to circumstances; it therefore meets my approbation and has my best wishes for its success.⁷³ I have the honor etc.⁷⁴

To EDMUND RANDOLPH

Mount Vernon, March 18, 1784.

Dear Sir: I have seen the form of the answer which you have drawn in Savages suit, and approve it; presuming the references are founded on facts. Mr. Fairfax⁷⁵ was to have compared these and will prepare a fair copy. I will remind him of the matter, and have it sent to you as soon as I can.

The case of the depending petitions, in the General Court, is as follows:

The Land was obtained under a proclamation of Mr. Dinwiddie; issued by the advice of his Council Feby. 19th. 1754, for encouraging the raising of Troops for an Expedition to the Ohio. It was surveyed pursuant to Warrants granted by Lord Dunmore, and patented Decr. 15th. 1772. For 10,990 acres, in Fincastle; 4,395, 2,448, 2,314 in Botetourt.

73. Steuben's plan is not now found in the *Washington Papers*.

74. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

75. Bryan Fairfax.

In the month of March 1774, I encounter'd *in preparation only* , an expence of at least £300; by the purchase of Servants, Nails, Tools and other necessaries for the purpose of seating and cultivating the above Lands, agreeably to our Act of Assembly; and for transporting the same over the Allighaney Mountains; but this was entirely sunk. The disturbances occasioned by the Indians, which immediately followed, put a stop to my proceedings; the Servants, some of them, engaged in the Militia; others squandered and the whole were lost *to me* ; while my Goods, as I am informed, were seized for the use of the Militia and a fort which was built, upon the Expedition under Lord Dunmore, and no

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compensation made me for them; nor, if I am rightly informed, any thing given upon which I can found a claim.

The March following I went thro' the second edition of a similar expence, and find by having recourse to my papers, (since I came home) the Certificates which I enclose herewith.

Not knowing what had been, or might be done in this second essay to cultivate my Lands (for I left home in May, while my people were out), I wrote from Cambridge (in Septr., 1775) to Mr. Everard requesting as a further security, that they might be covered by friendly Petitions; and presume I must have required Colo. Bassett to take measures accordingly. But never knew what, or whether any steps had been taken in this business, 'till Mr. Mercer (whom I saw at Fredericksburg the other day) and your Letter of the 19th. of Feby. since, informed me of the depending Petitions.

Under this information and what follows, you will be so good as to do what shall appear necessary and proper in

my behalf. The Lands, by the Proclamation and Patents, are exempt from the payment of quit rent, 'till the expiration of fifteen years from and after the date of the latter: but my ignorance of the existing Laws of this State, since the change of its Constitution, does not enable me to determine whether the old Act requiring cultivation and improvement, is yet in force, or not; consequently I can give no opinion upon the proper line of conduct to be pursued. Admitting however that this act is in force, so far as it may apply to Lands under the circumstances mine are; yet the two principal Tracts are nevertheless saved; as will appear by the records of Fincastle and Botetourt, where the aggregate of the valuation amount to £1583:15:7½, and the sum required to save the number of acres contained in them amounts to no more than £1538:10:0. And had it not been for the hostile temper of the Indians towards the close of 1775, which rendered it unsafe for my people to remain

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out, and who were actually driven in, to my very great loss in other respects (besides the non-cultivation) I should most undoubtedly, have saved the whole agreeably to Law.

Miss Lee, sister to the late Major Genl. Lee, wrote, requesting me to obtain for her an authenticated copy of his will; the copy I have lately got, but Mr. Drew thinks it may be necessary to affix the Seal of the State to it, as it is to go to England, I request the favor of you therefore to procure and send this to me by the post, the cost when made known to me I will pay. With very great regard etc.⁷⁶

76. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To JOHN HARVIE

Mount Vernon, March 18, 1784.

Sir: By a further research into my papers, I have found, with a letter from Colo. Fielding Lewis (which it shou'd seem must have come *to this place* after I had accepted the command of the Army and was gone to Cambridge), the Survey which I now enclose, as I also do the letter alluded to, as it will account for its delay in reaching the Land Office 'till now.

As I recollect well that Michael Cresap and indeed others were disposed to give me trouble about this bottom, I will thank you for examining if any Caveat to the issuing of a Patent has ever been entered in the Land office by him, Doctr. Brisco, or Charles Smith, all of whom at times, without a shadow of right, possessed themselves of the Land. If there is not, and the Constitution admits of no arrest to the progress of my claim elsewhere, I should be glad to receive a Grant therefor, as soon as you can make it convenient, and should be glad also, if there is nothing improper in it, if the Patent was to recite the date of the Survey and the right upon which it is founded, that it may not have the appearance of a recent transaction, new rights, or purchase under the present modes. I wish this might be the case also with the Grant for the Survey made by Colo. Preston⁷⁷ and Mr. Saml. Lewis,

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copies of which you were so obliging as to send me last month. The first of these accounts for my warrants to Mr. Thruston, as the latter does for 2950 acres of the one to myself; and having since found the one to Capt. Roots (assigned to me) for 3,000 unexecuted; I have now only 5,050 acres unaccounted for, with these I am at a loss what to do, or where

77. Col. William Preston.

to locate them.

With respect to the Tract of 578 acres it may be necessary for me further to add, that neither myself, nor any person in my behalf has ever been notified of a Caveat, that I have never heard of one. In my letter of the 10th. of Feby. I intimated that Michael Cresap had impeded the Patent for it; and by a letter from Capt. Crawford⁷⁸ it appears that he attempted to do it with Lord Dunmore, when he was on the Indian Expedition, but the result he knew not. And that I have requested an examination for no other reason than to prevent (in case such a thing unknown to me should be) unnecessary trouble and expence. One thing I am certain of, and that is, that neither of the persons who have discovered a disposition to give me trouble and vexation in this Affair, saw or heard of the Land, 'till it was surveyed on my Accot. With great esteem and regard, I have the honor, etc.⁷⁹

To MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX

Mount Vernon, March 20, 1784.

My dear Sir: Your Letter of the 21st. ulto. did not reach my hands 'till yesterday. Having the Governor here and a house full of company, and the Post being on the point of setting out for the Eastward I must confine the few lines I shall be able (at this time) to write, to the business of the Cincinnati.

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From what you have said of the temper of your Assembly respecting this Society, from the current of Sentiment in the other New

78. Later Col. William Crawford.

79. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

England States thereon, and from the official letter which I have lately received from the Marqs. de la Fayette on this subject, I am more than ever of opinion that the general meeting at Philada. in May next ought, *by all means*, to be full and respectable: I was sorry to find these words therefore in your letter, after naming the Delegates from your State, "probably, only two will attend."

I think, not only the whole number chosen should attend, but the abilities of them coolly, deliberately, and wisely employed when met, to obviate the prejudices and remove the jealousies which are already imbibed, and more than probably, through ignorance, envy and perhaps worse motives, will encrease and spread. I cannot therefore forbear urging in strong terms, the necessity of the measure. The ensuing General Meeting, is either *useful* or *useless*; if the former, the representatives of each State Society, ought to be punctual in their attendance, especially under the present circumstances. If it is not, all ought to be exempted; and I am sure none can give the time which this journey and business requires, with less convenience to themselves than myself.

By a Letter which I have just received from Genl. Greene, I am informed that himself, Genl. Varnum and Majr. Lyman are chosen to represent the Society of the State of Rhode Island; that he intends to be in So. Carolina before the meeting, and it is not expected that more than one will attend it! I wish this could be otherwise, and that General Greene would attend; private interest, or convenience may be a plea for many, and the Meeting thereby be thin and unfit for the purpose of its institution.

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I have heard nothing yet from

New Hampshire, New York, or New Jersey to the Eastward, nor any thing from the Southward; to the last, duplicates have long since been sent.

As there can be no interruption of the post by bad weather, now, and there is time for it, pray let me hear more fully from you on the subject of this letter, by the return of it; particularly what the Committee's of your Assembly have reported. Mrs. Washington joins in best wishes for Mrs. Knox, yourself and the little folks, with Your, etc.⁸⁰

To NATHANAEL GREENE

Mount Vernon, March 20, 1784.

My Dr. Sir: From the purport of your Letter dated Feby. 16th. at New-port (which only came to my hands yesterday), I have little expectation that this reply to it will find you in the State of Rhode Island. If however the case be otherwise it is to express an earnest wish that you might make it convenient to take the Genl. Meeting of the Cincinnati in your way to So. Carolina.

I was concerned to hear you say, only one Delegate from your State would be there. It were to be wished on many accounts, that the ensuing Meeting might not only be full in representation, but that the best abilities of the Society might also be present. There are, in my opinion very important reasons for this, and I cannot avoid expressing an earnest wish, that yours

80. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

may be among them. I would add more were I not apprehensive that this will not meet you in time. I have received Letters from France on this subject, which, with the sentiments

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which may seem disposed to entertain of the tendency of the Society, makes it, I repeat it again, indispensably necessary that the first meeting shou'd be full and respectable.

As there is time (supposing this letter gets to your hand in Rhode Island) to give me an acknowledgment of it, let me entreat an answer. My best wishes attend Mrs. Greene, yourself and Family, in which Mrs. Washington joins. And I am very sincerely and affectionately Yours, etc.⁸¹

81. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To CAPTAIN JOSHUA BARNEY

Mount Vernon, March 24, 1784.

Sir: Your Letter of the 6th.⁸² only came to hand the 22d. I thank you for your care of the packages sent by the Marqs. de la Fayette, for which I will send a Carriage in the course of two or three days. In the meanwhile, if you would be so obliging as to have them deposited at the lodgings of Mr. Jefferson, a Delegate in Congress at Annapolis, from this State, it would oblige me. If you will be pleased to let me know what expences have attended these packages, the money shall be paid to your order.⁸³ I am, etc.⁸⁴

82. Not now found in the *Washington Papers*.

83. On March 24 Washington wrote to Thomas Jefferson, then at Annapolis, that he would answer, his letter of March 15 (in the *Washington Papers*) more fully later. He inclosed the letter to Barney and asked that Jefferson receive the packages from Lafayette. "They are valuable, and I pray you to give them house room." A copy of this letter is in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

84. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To BENJAMIN WALKER

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Mount Vernon, March 24, 1784.

Dear Walker: I perceive by the Governor's⁸⁵ letter dated Feby. 27th.⁸⁶ (which only came to hand yesterday, and learn also by a Letter from Colo. Varick) that you are of his Family.

Let me entreat you therefore, without giving the Govr. any more trouble in the matter than is absolutely necessary, to clear up a mistake which must have happened some where.

The Govr. in acknowledging the receipt of my Letters of the 15th. and 28th. of Decr. adds, "the former covering Mr. Morris's Notes to the amount of 2080 80/90 Dollars". It ought to have covered (if any were enclosed) 4226 dollars and a fraction; arising first, from the balance of my warrant upon the Paymaster for 6000 Dollars, of which I recd. 2500 only, taking Mr. Morris's Note for the balance of the Accot. I had then deposited in the Auditors Office, amounting to £217:16:8. (Dols. at 6/.) which together made the 4226 10/90 Dollars. This business was transacted by Colo. Cobb, the Notes, as I intended them for the Govr., never came into my hands, or only to look at, and to him, in the hurry we were all in, the morning of our departure from Philada., was given my letter to the Govr., open, with a request that the letter and notes might be delivered to His Excellcy. as he passed thro' New York; the former informing him, that I should throw into his hands about £1700 towards the discharge of my bond. Whether the letter was left open to receive the Notes, or merely for him to seal, as I was hurried by the crowd of visitors which pressed upon us at that time, I do not now recollect, but certain it is, the Govt., by the means here mentioned, ought

85. Gov. George Clinton.

86. This letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

to have received Notes for 4226 Dolls. instead of 2080.

The other sum of 857 52/90 Dollars (which is mentioned in the Govrs. Letter) is a subsequent transaction altogether, arising from our Expenditures in Philada., on the road

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to Virginia &ca., a warrant for which on Mr. Hilligas was drawn by Mr. Morris and sent to me for indorsation, which it has accordingly received, and is sent back to him again for the Govrs. use. Under this information you will confer a favor upon me by getting this mistake explained and rectified. If the Govr. received no more than 2080 80/90 dollars, Colo. Cobb only can account for it; as the facts are literally as I have stated them.

I have obtained no answer yet to the Circular Letter you took with you for New Jersey, New York and New Hampshire, the two first certainly must have got to hand; but it may not be amiss nevertheless for you to enquire (by a line) of the Presidents of those two (State) Societies, whether they have or have not got them, accompanying the enquiry with information of the time and place of the Genl. Meeting.

I understand the Society of Cincinnati is the cause of much jealousy and uneasiness in the New England States. Pray what is said of it in yours, and in the Jersey. Will you (for a letter may arrive at this place before I set out) be kind enough to give me full information on this head, who your Delegates are, whether they will attend &ca. It were much to be wished that the Genl. Meeting might be full and respectable; that the several matters which may come before it, might be deliberately weighed, and wisely resolved on. A thin meeting will bring the Society into contempt.

Inclosed you have a letter which came under cover to me. My best wishes attend the Govt., I feel great concern for his own, and the indisposition of his Family, and very much so for the accident my namesake met with. Mrs. Washington joins me in these and Compliments to you. I am, etc.⁸⁷

87. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

***To TENCH TILGHMAN**

Mount Vernon, March 24, 1784.

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Dear Sir: I am informed that a Ship with Palatines is gone up to Baltimore, among whom are a number of Trademen. I am a good deal in want of a House Joiner and Bricklayer, (who really understand their profession) and you would do me a favor by purchasing one of each, for me. I would not confine you to Palatines. If they are good workmen, they may be of Asia, Africa, or Europe. They may be Mahometans, Jews or Christian of an Sect, or they may be Athiests. I would however prefer middle aged, to young men. and those who have good countenances and good characters on ship board, to others who have neither of these to recommend them, altho, after all, the proof of the pudding must be in the eating. I do not limit you to a price, but will pay the purchase money on demand. This request will be in force 'till complied with, or countermanded, because you may not succeed at this moment, and have favourable ones here after to do it in. My best respects, in which Mrs. Washington joins, are presented to Mrs. Tilghman and Mrs. Carroll. and I am etc.

[H.S.P.]

To DOCTOR JAMES CRAIK

Mount Vernon, March 25, 1784.

Dear Sir: In answer to Mr. Bowie's⁸⁸ request to you, permit me to assure that Gentleman, that I shall at all times be glad to see him at this retreat. That whenever he is here, I will give him the perusal of any public papers antecedent to my appointment to the command of the American army, that he may be laying up materials for his work. And whenever Congress shall have opened *their* Archives to any Historian for information, that he shall have the examination of all others in my possession which are subsequent thereto; but that 'till this epoch, I do not think myself at liberty to unfold papers which contain all the occurrences and transactions of my *late* command; first, because I conceive it to be respectful to the sovereign power to let them take the lead in this business; and next,

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because I have, upon this principle, refused Doctr. Gordon and others who are about to write the History of the revolution, this priviledge.

I will frankly declare to you, My Dr. Doctor that any memoirs of my life, distinct and unconnected with the general history of the war, would rather hurt my feelings than tickle my pride whilst I lived. I had rather glide gently down the stream of life, leaving it to posterity to think and say what they please of me, than by any act of mine to have vanity or ostentation imputed to me. And I will further more confess that I was rather surprised into a consent, when Doctr. Witherspoon (very unexpectedly) made the application, than considered the tendency of that consent. It did not occur to me at that moment, from the manner in which the question was propounded, that no history of my life, without a very great deal of trouble indeed, could be written with the least degree of accuracy, unless recourse was had to me, or to my papers for

88. John Bowie.

information; that it would not derive sufficient authenticity without a promulgation of this fact; and that such a promulgation would subject me to the imputation I have just mentioned, which would hurt me the more, as I do not think vanity is a trait of my character.

It is for this reason, and candour obliges me to be explicit, that I shall stipulate against the publication of the memoirs Mr. Bowie has in contemplation to give the world, 'till I shou'd see more probability of avoiding the darts which *I think* would be pointed at me on such an occasion; and how far, under these circumstances, it wou'd be worth Mr. Bowie's while to spend time which might be more usefully employed in other matters, is with him to consider; as the practicability of doing it efficiently, without having free access to the documents of this War, which must fill the most important pages of the Memoir, and which for the reasons already assigned cannot be admitted at present, also is. If nothing happens more than I at present foresee, I shall be in Philadelphia on or before the first

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of May; where 'tis probable I may see Mr. Bowie and converse further with him on this subject; in the mean while I will thank you for communicating these Sentiments. I am, etc.⁸⁹

89. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To NATHANAEL GREENE

Mount Vernon, March 27, 1784.

My Dr. Sir: A few days ago, by the post, on wch. of late there seems to be no dependance, I wrote you a few lines expressive of an earnest wish that you could make it convenient to be at the Genl. Meeting of the Society of Cincinnati, before you took your departure for South Carolina. I did not then, nor can I now, assign all my reasons for it; but to me it should seem indispensable, that the Meeting in May next should not only be full, but composed of the best abilities of the representation. The temper, of the New England States in particular, respecting this Society, the encreasing jealousies of it, a letter from the Marquis, and other considerations point strongly to wise determination at this time. If then private interest or convenience with hold the first characters from the Meeting, what may be the consequence? 'tis easier, and perhaps better to be conceived than told. At any rate a *bare* representation will bring the Society into disrepute, and unfit it perhaps to decide upon the weighty matters which may come before it. besides, these excuses may be offered by one man as well as another, and sure I am none can urge them with more propriety than myself. I would add more, but that I fear this letter will not reach you in time and I am detaining a countryman of yours who has a fair wind, and I know is setting upon thorns from his eagerness to embrace it. Most sincerely and Affectionately, I am, etc.⁹⁰

90. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

***To THOMAS JEFFERSON**

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Mount Vernon, March 29, 1784.

Dear Sir: It was not in my power to answer your favor of the 15th. by the last post, for the reason then assigned. I wish I may be able to do it to your satisfaction now, as I again am obliged to pay my attention to other Company, (the Govr.⁹¹ being gone).

My opinion coincides perfectly with yours respecting the practicability of an easy, and short communication between the Waters of the Ohio and Potomac. Of the advantages of that communication, and the preference it has over *all* others. And of the policy there would be in this State, and Maryland to adopt and render it facile; but I confess to you freely, I have no expectation that the public will adopt the measure; for besides the jealousies wch. prevail, and the difficulty of proportioning such funds as may be allotted for the purposes you have mentioned, there are two others, which, in my opinion, will be yet harder to surmount; these are (if I have not imbibed too unfavourable an opinion of my Countrymen) the impracticability of bringing the great, and truly wise policy of the measure to their view; and the difficulty of drawing money from them, for such a purpose if you could do it. for it appears to me, maugre all the sufferings of the public creditors, breach of public faith, and loss of public reputation, that payment of the taxes which are already laid, will be postponed as long as possible! how then are we to expect new ones, for purposes more remote?

I am not so disinterested in this matter as you are; but I am made very happy to find that a man of discernment

91. Gov. Benjamin Harrison.

and liberality (who has no particular interest in the plan) thinks as I do, who have Lands in that Country the value of which would be enhanced, by the adoption of such a Scheme.

More than ten years ago I was struck with the importance of it, and despairing of any aid from the public, I became a principal Mover of a Bill to empower a number of Subscribers

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to undertake, at their own expence, (upon conditions which were expressed) the extension of the Navigation from tide Water to Wills's Creek (about 150 Miles) and I devoutly wish that this may not be the only expedient by which it can be effected now. To get this business in motion, I was obliged, even upon *that ground*, to comprehend James River, in order to remove the jealousies which arose from the attempt to extend the Navigation of the Potomack. The plan however, was in a tolerably train when I set out for Cambridge in 1775, and would have been in an excellent way had it not been for the difficulties which were met with in the Maryland Assembly; from the opposition which was given (according to report) by the Baltimore Merchants; who were alarmed, and perhaps not without cause, at the consequence of Water transportation to George Town of the produce which usually came to their Market.

The local interest of that place (Baltimore) joined with the short sighted politics, or contracted views of another part of that Assembly, gave Mr. Thomas Johnson who was a warm promoter of the Scheme on the No. side of the River, a great deal of trouble.⁹² In this situation things were when I took command of the Army; the War afterwards called Mens attention to different objects, and all the Money they could or would raise, were applied to other purposes; but with you, I am satisfied that not a moment ought to be lost in recommencing this business; for I *know* the Yorkers will delay no time to remove every

92. Virginia, by her Constitution of 1776, had recognized Maryland's charter-right to the waters of the Potomac. Time showed this to have been a mistake, and James Madison carried a resolution through the Virginia legislature in 1784 to settle the matter through a joint commission which would frame regulations for the commerce of the Potomac. This commission met at Alexandria in March, 1785. This commission consisted of George Mason, Edmund Randolph, James Madison, and Alexander Henderson, of Virginia, and Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer, Thomas Johnson, Thomas Stone, and Samuel Chase, of Maryland. It adjourned to Mount Vernon and struggled with the matter from March 25 to 28. One outcome of this endeavor was the Annapolis Convention of 1786.

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obstacle in the way of the other communication, so soon as the Posts at Oswego and Niagara are surrendered; and I shall be mistaken if they do not build Vessels for the Navigation of the Lakes, which will supercede the necessity of coasting on either side.

It appears to me that the Interest and policy of Maryland is proportionably concerned with that of Virginia to remove obstructions, and to invite the trade of the Western territory into the channel you have mentioned. You will have frequent opportunities of learning the Sentiments of the principal characters of that State, respecting this matter, and if you should see Mr. Johnson (formerly Govr. of the State) great information may be derived from him. How far, upon more mature consideration I may depart from the resolution I had formed of living perfectly at my ease, exempt from all kinds of responsibility, is more than I can, at present, absolutely determine. The Sums granted, the manner of granting them, the powers and objects, would merit consideration. The trouble, if my situation at the time would permit me to engage in a work of this sort would be set at naught; and the immense advantages which this Country would derive from the measure, would be no small stimulus to the undertaking; if that undertaking could be made to comport with those ideas, and that line of conduct with which I meant to glide gently down the stream of life; and it did not interfere with any other plan I might have in contemplation.

I am not less in sentiment with you respecting the impolicy of this State's grasping at more territory than they are competent to the Government of. And for the

reasons you assign, I very much approve of a Meridian from the Mouth of the Great Kanhawa as a convenient and very proper line of seperation. But I am mistaken if our chief Magistrate will coincide with us in this opinion.

I will not enter upon the subject of Commerce, it has its advantages and disadvantages, but which of them preponderates is not the question. From Trade our Citizens *will not* be restrained, and therefore it behoves us to place it in the most convenient channels,

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under proper regulation. freed *as much as possible* , from those vices which luxury, the consequence of wealth and power, naturally introduce.

The incertitude which prevails in Congress, and the nonattendance of its Members, is discouraging to those who are willing, and ready to discharge the trust which is reposed in them; whilst it is disgraceful, in a high degree to our Country. but I believe the case will never be otherwise, so long as that body persist in their present mode of doing business; and will hold constant, instead of annual Sessions; against the former of which, my mind furnishes me with a variety of Arguments, but not one, in times of peace, in favor of the latter.

Annual Sessions would always produce a full representation, and alertness at business. The Delegates, after a recess of 8 or 10 Months would meet each other with glad Countenances; they would be complaisant; they would yield to each other as much as the duty they owed their constituents would permit; and they would have opportunities of becoming better acquainted with the Sentiments of them and removing their prejudices, during the recess. Men who are always together get tired of each others Company; they throw off the proper restraint; they say and do things which are personally disgusting; this begets opposition; opposition

begets faction; and so it goes on till business is impeded, often at a stand. I am sure (having the business prepared by proper Boards or a Committee) an Annual Session of two Months would dispatch more business than is now done in twelve; and this by a full representation of the Union.

Long as this letter is, I intended to be more full on some of the points, and to have touched upon some others; but it is not in my power, as I am obliged to snatch the moments which give you this hasty production from Co. With very great esteem &c.

Quæry, have you not made the distance from Cuyahoga to New York too great?93

To ELBRIDGE GERRY

Mount Vernon, March 31, 1784.

Sir: Your favor of the 18th.,⁹⁶ came to my hands last week, but not in time to answer it by the Post.

I have examined my letter and orderly books, but find no such order as Mr. Gridley⁹⁷ alludes to, in his letter of the 21st. of Feby. to you.⁹⁸

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If his Father, or himself,

93. From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress. The copy in Washington's "Letter Book" varies considerably from this in verbal details, though the sense is the same.

96. This letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

97. Formerly Col. Richard Gridley.

98. Not now found in the *Washington Papers*.

ever received such orders, they are no doubt to be produced, and will speak for themselves. Mr. Gridley never reported himself to the Chief Engineer (Genl. Duportail) nor has he ever been returned to me by him, or any senior officer in that Department, that I remember, as one of that Corps, in the service of the United States. It is not in my power therefore, from any recollection I have of the circumstance he alludes to, or of his services, to certify any thing on which his claim can be founded.

It would give me pleasure at any time when your leisure and inclination would permit, to see you and your brother Delegates at this retreat. I am, etc.⁹⁵

To DOCTOR HUGH WILLIAMSON

Mount Vernon, March 31, 1784.

Dear Sir: The last Post brought me your favor of the 24th. The sentiments I shall deliver in answer to it, must be considered as coming from an individual only; for I am as unacquainted with the opinions, and know as little of the affairs and present management of the Swamp Company, in Virginia, (tho' a Member of it) as you do, perhaps less, as I have received nothing from thence, nor have heard any thing of my interest therein, for more than nine years.

I am equally uninformed of the motives which induced the Assembly of Virginia to open a Canal between Kemps, and the No. West Landings; but presume territorial jurisdiction must have been the

95. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

governing principle.

From an attentive review of the great dismal Swamp (and it was with a critical eye I examined it) I have been long satisfied of the practicability of opening a communication between the rivers which empty into Albemarle Sound (thro' Drummonds pond⁹⁴) and the waters of Elizabeth or Nansemond Rivers. Once, for the purpose of forming a plan for reclaiming the Lands, more than with a view to the benefit of navigation, I traversed Drummonds pond through its whole circuit; and at a time when it was brim full of water. I lay one night on the east border of it, on ground something above the common level of the Swamp; in the morning I had the curiosity to ramble as far into the Swamp as I could get with convenience, to the distance perhaps of five hundred yards; and found that the water which at the margin of the Lake (after it had exceeded its natural bounds) was stagnant, began perceivably to move Eastward; and at the extent of my walk it had deepen'd, got more into a channel, and increased obviously in its motion. This discovery left not a doubt

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in my mind, that that current was descending into one of the rivers of Albemarle Sound. To ascertain it, I directed our Manager to hire persons to explore it Fully; To the best of my recollection he some time afterwards informed me, that he had done so, that it was found to be the head of the Northwest river, that to where the water had formed a regular channel of considerable width and depth, did not exceed 4 miles, and that from thence downwards to the present navigation of the river, there was no other obstruction to small craft, than fallen trees. What I have given as coming under my own knowledge, you may rely upon.

94. Now called Lake Drummond.

The other, I as firmly believe, and have no doubt but that the waters of Pequamins and Pasquetank, have a similar, and perhaps as close a connexion with Drummonds pond as those of the No. West.

My researches, at different times, into, and round this Swamp (for I have encompassed the whole) have enabled me to make the following observations. That the principal rivulets which run into the great dismal, if not all of them, are to the westward of it, from Suffolk southwardly. That Drummonds Pond is the receptacle for all the water which can force its way thro' the reeds, roots, trash and fallen timber (with which the Swamp abounds) into it. That to these obstructions, and the almost perfect level of the Swamp, are to be ascribed the wetness of it. That in wet seasons, when the banks of the pond are overborne by the assemblage of waters from the quarter I have mentioned, it discharges itself with equal difficulty, into the heads of the rivers Albemarle, Elizabeth and Nansemond; for it is a fact, that the late Colo. Tucker of Norfolk, on a branch of Elizabeth river, and several others on Nansemond river, have Mills which are, or have been worked by the waters which run *out* of the Swamp.

Hence, and from a Canal which the Virginia Company opened some years since, I am convinced that there is not a difference of more than two feet between one part of the

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Swamp and another. That the East side, and south end are lower than their opposites; and that a canal of that depth when the water of Drummonds pond is even with its banks, and more or less in the proportion it rises or sinks, will take the water of it, and, with the aid of one Lock, let it into either Elizabeth river, or Nansemond; neither of which, from the best information I have been able to obtain, would exceed six or seven miles. Admitting these things, and I firmly believe in them, the kind of navigation will determine the expence, having due consideration to the difficulty which must be occasioned by the quantity of water, and little fall

by which it can be run off.

To attempt in the first instance such a Canal as would admit *any* vessel which the Bay of Albemarle is competent to, would in my opinion be tedious, and attended with an expence which might prove discouraging; whilst one upon a more contracted scale would answer very valuable purposes, and might be enlarged as the practicability of the measure, and the advantages resulting from it should unfold. appropriating the money which shall arise from the Toll, after principal and interest are fully paid, as a fund for the further extension of the navigation, which in my opinion wou'd be exceedingly practicable, and would be found the readiest and easiest plan to bring it to perfection.

If this method should be adopted, I would very readily join my mite towards the accomplishment, provided the Canal which the State of Virginia is about to cut, should not render it an unnecessary, or unprofitable undertaking. A more extended plan would be too heavy for my purse.

I agree in sentiment with you that whenever the public is disposed to reimburse principal and interest to the corporation and will open a free passage of the Canal the charter should cease; but I do not think eight pr. Cent is adequate, I mean sufficiently inviting, nor Ten either, unless Governmt., in the act for incorporation, were to guaranty the expence, and be at the final risque of the success. And would have, tho' not an exorbitant, yet a

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fixed toll, and one which should be judged fully competent to answer the purpose; because it is not less easy than pleasing to reduce it at any time, but it would be found difficult and disgusting, however necessary and urgent, to increase it.

In other respects my opinion differs not from yours, or the propositions you inclosed to, Sir,
Your etc.⁹⁵

To JAMES MILLIGAN

Mount Vernon, April 1, 1784.

Sir: Your favor of the 9th. of March came to hand last week. I am perfectly satisfied (from the circumstances you have related) that the charge of £133:16:0, is just. The manner in which you have accounted for it, makes the matter appear quite clear. It was the only channel thro' which I could have received the money unremembered, and it was from that consideration, I suggested the enquiry.

I am obliged by the readiness with wch. you adopt the alterations pointed out in my last, and altho' I am unwilling to add to the troubles of your office, I must pray you to examine the warrant on which the charge of 580 80/90 Dollars is placed to my debit. I drew no Warrt. while I was in Philada. for my own use, except for the balance of the Accot. rendered Decr. 13th., to wit £217:16.8, which amounting to 726 10/90 Dollars was credited in the subsequent Account of the 28th. of the same month. It's true I drew a Warrant, (and I believe, for I cannot readily come at my Warrt. Book, for the identical sum of 580 80/90 Dolts.), but this, if I recollect right was to give two or three months to each of my aids, and to a small party of Dragoons who were then with me. It was done with the consent, and (the mode) by the direction of the Financier; No charge of it was made by me, as will appear by a reference to my Accots.; for I presumed the paymaster General, would debit the

95. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

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persons for whose benefit the warrant was drawn with the respective sums annexed to their names. If however it is necessary that it should appear as an article of charge against me, in your Office, My Accot. ought to have credit by these people, and they debited to the amount; as I only follow'd Mr. Morris's direction in the business, without deriving any other benefit from the draft than the satisfaction of Servg. those whom I knew stood much in need of money.

You will be so good as to excuse the trouble this alteration will make in your Accots.; probably it is the last trouble I shall ever have occasion to give. You will receive at the same time, my thanks for your attention to my business, and the assurances of my being Sir, Your etc.⁹⁹

***To JONATHAN TRUMBULL, JUNIOR**

Mount Vernon, April 4, 1784.

My dear Sir: The choice of your delegates to the General Meeting of the Cincinnati gave me pleasure, and I wish very sincerely you would *all* attend; Let me impress this upon you, with a request that you would impress it upon your Brothers of the delegation.

This meeting, taking into consideration the prejudices and jealousies which have arisen, should not only be respectable in number, but respectable in abilities. Our measures should be deliberate and wise. If we cannot convince the people that their fears are ill-founded we should (at least in a degree)

99. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

yield to them and not suffer that which was intended for the best of purposes to produce a bad one which will be the consequence of divisions proceeding from an opposition to the curr. opinion, if the fact is so in the Eastern States as *some* have reported. Independent of this there are other matters which call for attention at the ensuing meeting.⁴

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You will oblige me by having the enclosed advertisement⁵ inserted twice, (and as soon as convenient) in a Gazette of your State. The one which is most diffused among that class of people whose views it is most likely to meet will answer my purposes best. Know the cost and I will pay it when we meet. Present my best regards to your good Father, whether in, or out of Office. Mrs. Washington joins in best wishes for you and Mrs. Trumbull with Dr. Sir Yr. etc.

[N.Y.P.L.]

To LOUIS LE BÈQUE DU PORTAIL

Mount Vernon, April 4, 1784.

Dear Sir: At present I can do no more than snatch a moment to acknowledge (by Monsr. La Compte de Laval, who is going immediately to Paris and gave me the honor of a call as he travelled from Charles town to New York) the receipt of your kind remembrance of me, and to assure you that it will always give me great pleasure to hear from, or to see you in America.

Matters in this Country, since you left it, remain *nearly* in statu quo. It is said however, a more liberal sentiment is taking place in those States which were most opposed to

4. Among these other matters was the admission of several French naval officers: La Pérouse, La Touche, D'Albert de Rion, and Tilly, whose names had been sent in by Lafayette. Washington's short note, undated, to Knox concerning this is in the New York Public Library, where it has been assigned the date of Apr. 4, 1784, and Trumbull is given as the addressee. Lafayette's letter to Washington, mentioning these officers, is dated Mar. 9, 1784, and is in the *Papers of the Society of the Cincinnati*.

5. The land sale advertisement of the Ohio lands. (See Advertisement, Mar. 1784, *ante*.)

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commutation, and the other interests of the army, and that the impost, which has laboured so long in them, will certainly pass this Spring; this will be a principal move towards restoring public credit, and raising our sinking reputation. More competent powers it is thought will also be vested, in a little time, in Congress, and that all things will come right after the people *feel* the inconveniences wch. they might have avoided if they had not been too fond of judging for themselves.

I have only news paper Accts. of the Air Balloons, to which I do not know what credence to give; as the tales related of them are marvellous, and lead us to expect that our friends at Paris, in a little time, will come flying thro' the air, instead of ploughing the Ocean to get to America.

Present me Affectionately to Gouverneur⁶ (from whom I recd. a letter just at his departure from Philada.), tell him he shall always have a first place in my esteem, and that whatever contributes to his happiness or interest will give me pleasure. With great esteem and regard, I am, etc.⁷

6. Jean Baptiste Gouvion (Gouverneur). His letter of Nov. 4, 1783, is in the *Washington Papers*.

7. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To MARCHIONESS DE LAFAYETTE

Mount Vernon, April 4, 1784.

Madam: It is now, more than ever, I want words to express the sensibility and gratitude with which the honor of your felicitations of the 26th. of Decr. has inspired me. If my expression was equal to the feelings of my heart the homage I am about to render you, would appear in a more favourable point of view, than my most sanguine expectations will encourage me to hope for. I am more inclined therefore to rely upon the continuance of

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your indulgent sentiments of me, and that innate goodness for which you are remarked, than upon any merit I possess, or any assurances I could give of my sense of the obligation I am under for the honor you have conferred upon me by your correspondence.

Great as your claim is, as a French or American woman; or as the wife of my amiable friend, to my affectionate regards; you have others to which the palm must be yielded. The charms of your person, and the beauties of your mind, have a more powerful operation. These Madam, have endeared you to me, and every thing which partakes of your nature will have a claim to my affections. George and Virginia (the offspring of your love), whose names do honor to my Country, and to myself, have a double claim and will be the objects of my vows.

From the clangor of arms and the bustle of a camp, freed from the cares of public employment, and the responsibility of office, I am now enjoying domestic ease under the shadow of my own Vine, and my own Fig tree; and in a small Villa, with the implements of Husbandry, and Lambkins around me, I expect to glide gently down the stream of life, 'till I am entombed in the dreary mansions of my Fathers.

Mrs. Washington is highly honored by your participations, and feels very sensibly the force of your polite invitation to Paris; but she is too far advanced in life, and is too much immersed in the care of her little progeny,² to cross the Atlantic. This My Dr. Marchioness (indulge me with this freedom) is not the case with you. You have youth (and if you should not incline to bring your children, can leave them with all the advantages to Education), and *must* have a curiosity to see the Country, young, rude and uncultivated as it is; for the liberties of which your husband has fought, bled, and acquired much glory. Where every body admires, every body loves him. Come then, let me entreat it, and call my Cottage your home; for your own doors do not open to you with more readiness, than mine wou'd. You will see the plain manner in which we live; and meet the rustic civility, and you shall taste the simplicity of rural life. It will diversify the Scene and may give you a higher relish for the gaieties of the Court, when you return to Versailles. In these wishes, and in most

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respectful compliments Mrs. Washington joins me. With sentiments of strong attachment, and very great regard, I have the honor etc.³

2. Her grandchildren.

3. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE

Mount Vernon, April 4, 1784.

My Dr. Marqs. I have no expectation, that this Letter will find you in France. Your favor of Novr. to me, and of Decr. to Congress, both announce your intention of making us a visit this Spring. On this hope I shall fully rely, and shall ardently long for the moment in which I can embrace you in America. Nothing could add more to the pleasure of this interview than the happiness of seeing Madame la Fayette with you, that I might have the honor of thanking her in person for the flattering letter she has been pleased to write to me; and to assure her of the sincerity of my wishes, and those of Mrs. Washington, that she cou'd make Mount Vernon her home, while she stays in America.

Lest I should be disappointed of this gratification, I accompany this letter with another to the Marchioness; and if I could express to her half what I feel upon the occasion it would, if *twenty years* could be taken from the number of my days, make you diligent at your *post*. Adieu, it is unnecessary to tell you how much I am Yours, etc.

PS. I have received the plate, you were so obliging as to send me by Captain Barney; and thank you for your great attention to my request though I endeavoured to countermand it. I shall be at Philada. the first of May, when and where, I will buy a Bill, and remit you for the cost of it.¹

1. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

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On April 4 Washington wrote a brief letter to the President of Congress, introducing Comte de Laval Montmorency, brother to the Duc de Laval. The original of this is in the possession of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union.

To WILLIAM HAMILTON

Mount Vernon, April 6, 1784.

Sir: I have been favored with your Letter of the 20th. of Feby., and pray you to accept my thanks for the information contained in it.

I expect to be in Philada. the first of May; but if in the meanwhile, you should be perfectly satisfied of the skill of Mr. Turner, and the efficiency of his work, you would add to the favor already conferred on me, by desireing him not to be engaged further than to yourself, until I see him. I have a large room, which I intend to finish in Stucco and plaister of Paris; besides this, I have a piazza in front of my house (open and exposed to the weather) of 100 feet by 12 or 14, which I want to give a floor to, of Stone or some kind of cement which will be proof against wet and frost; and I am, as you were, plagued with leaks at a Cupola &c., which requires a skilful artist to stop, all these things would afford Mr. Turner a good job, whilst the good execution of them would be rendering me an acceptable service. I have the honor, etc.⁸

To SAMUEL VAUGHAN

Mount Vernon, April 8, 1784.

Sir: Your favor of the 5th. of Feby. was long on its way to me. I scarcely knew in what terms to express my sense of your politeness, and the obligation you have laid me under by your order for the marble chimney piece and pair of glass Jarendoles;¹³ but

8. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

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13. Girandoles.

be assured Sir, this instance of your attention has made an impression, which never will be forgotten. You have much obliged me also by giving your sentiments respecting my room.¹⁴

Altho' you have suspended your visit to Virginia, I would fain flatter myself that you have not laid it altogether aside. I expect to be in Philada. about the first of May, when I shall have an opportunity of thanking you in person for your great politeness to me, and to assure you of the esteem etc.¹⁵

***To THOMAS JEFFERSON**

Mount Vernon, April 8, 1784.

Dear Sir: If with frankness, and the fullest latitude of a friend, you will give me your opinion of the Institution of the Society of Cincinnati, it would confer an acceptable favor upon me. If to this opinion, you would be so obliging as to add the Sentiments, or what you suppose to be the sentiments of Congress respecting it, I would thank you.

That you may have the best materials on which to form a judgment, I send you a copy of the proceedings of the Society. Consequent of their choice of me for Presidt. Pro: Tem. and the direction therein, I sent the Institution to the French land and Naval Commanders, and to the Marqs. de la Fayette, as the Senr. French Officer in the American Army, whose proceedings thereon I also enclose to you.

These Papers you will please to

14. Now known as the Banquet Hall at Mount Vernon.

15. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

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retain (for fear of accidents) 'till I shall have the pleasure (the Week after next) of seeing you in Annapolis, on my way to Philadelphia; whither this, and other business, will take me; but the sooner I could receive your sentiments on this Subject, the more pleasing they would be to me.

The Pamphlet⁹ ascribed to Mr. Burke,¹⁰ as I am told had its effect. People are alarmed, especially in the Eastern States. How justly, or how contrary to the avowed principles of the Society and the purity of their motives, I will not declare, least it should appear that I wanted to biass your judgment rather than to obtain an opinion, which, if you please, might be accompanied with sentiments (under the information here given) respecting the most eligible measures to be pursued by the Society at their next meeting.

You may be assured Sir, that to the good opinion, alone, which I entertain of your abilities and candor, this liberty is to be attributed; and I can truly add, that with very great esteem and regard I am &c.¹¹

PS. I was on the point of closing this Letter when Mr. Hogendorff put your favor of the 6th. into my hands.¹²

***To THOMAS WALKER¹⁶**

Mount Vernon, April 10, 1784.

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 24th. of Jan: only got to my hands by the Post on thursday last; if this letter is as long on its passage to you, the May Session will have ended before it reaches you.

9. The pamphlet, entitled "Considerations on the Society, or Order, of Cincinnati," was published anonymously in Philadelphia in 1783.

10. Judge Aedanus Burke, of South Carolina.

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11. Jefferson's reply to this letter, dated Apr. 16, 1784, is in the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, a photostat of which is in the *Washington Papers*. The draft is in the *Jefferson Papers*.

12. From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

16. Of Albemarle County, Va. He was formerly a colonel of militia.

The favorable sentiments you have been pleased to express for me, deserve my particular acknowledgments; and I thank you for your kind invitation to Castle hill; which I certainly shall avail myself of, if ever I should come into that part of the Country. In return, I hope it is unnecessary to give you assurances of the pleasure I should feel in seeing you, and my cousin at this retreat from all my public employments.

I much approve the proposal for a meeting of the Swamp Company, but I pray *you* to issue the summons, and to name the time and place for holding it. Richmond appears to me to be the most convenient place, but any other, or any time, shall have my attendance when it shall be in my power. The first of May I am called to Philadelphia on business of different kinds; how long I shall be absent is uncertain, for it is probable I may make a more extensive tour, which would take much time to perform. I beg therefore that the meeting may not be delayed on my acct. Whatever resolutions the Company may come to, shall meet my concurrence. Enclosed I send you the Copy of a letter from Doctr. Williamson of North Carolina, who is a delegate in Congress, and member of a Company who holds that part of the Dismal swamp which lyes South of the Virginia line. I send it, that the proposition may appear before the next meeting of our Company, and be considered by it.

With respect to the private purchases made conjointly by yourself, our deceased friend, and me, I can only say that I gave my consent to the Sale because Colo. Lewis desired his part to be sold; and indeed, because my own circumstances made it necessary for me to

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raise money by some such means; but I accompanied that consent with an opinion, that a Sale at this time would be premature; inasmuch as that the value of these Lands were not sufficiently known, nor had the spirit of emigration taken place in that

extensive degree which was, and is, expected. In February last at Fredericksburgh, I had an opportunity of seeing and conversing with Mr. John Lewis on this subject; when it was our joint opinion, that it would be imprudent to precipitate the Sale, before a just value could be obtained; but that it might be proper to advertise the Land under just descriptions, in the several Gazettes, to see if offers equal to our expectations, would be made for them. If you approve of this measure for the Tracts in which you are concerned, it may be carried into effect along with that of Norfleets, which his father and I had between us in equal moieties. Mrs. Washington unites in best wishes for you and Mrs. Walker with Dr. Sir Yrs. etc.

PS. As it is now nine years since I have heard a tittle from the Company, or how the affairs of it have been managed, if you would devote an hour for the purpose of giving this information I should receive it very kindly. I should be glad also to receive a copy of Mr. Andrews's Survey of the Company's Lands. or, if that would be troublesome, I should be very glad to know what quantity there is of it.

Since writing the above, I find (as I mean to send this letter to Post to Fredericksburgh), that I have not time to Copy Doctr. Williamson's letter to me, and therefore I give you the original.¹⁷

17. From a photostat of the original owned by Dr. William C. Rives, of Washington, D. C.

To MISS SIDNEY LEE

Mount Vernon, April 15, 1784.

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Madam: I fear you will think me inattentive to your commands; appearances are against me, but I have not been unmindful of your request, or my promise. During my continuence with the Army, I wrote several Letters to Mr. Drew, Clerk of the Court in which the Will of Majr. Genl. Lee was recorded; all of which I persume, miscarried; as the first Letter he acknowledges to have received from me, was written in Decr. last, after I had retired to this Seat. His letter will account for the delay which took place afterwards, and the sending to Richmond (which is at a considerable distance from hence) to obtain the Governor's certificate, has filled up the great measure of time which has elapsed since my promise to procure you an attested copy of the Will, and will I hope, plead for my seeming neglect. Berkeley is a remote County, much out of the post road; which may accot. for the miscarriage of my letters to Mr. Drew. Your application to me, Madam, required no apology; I only regret that it has not been in my power to comply with your request sooner: if there is any thing further in which I can be serviceable, I pray you to command me. I have the honor, etc.¹⁸

To THE GOVERNOR OF BARBADOS

Mount Vernon, April 25, 1784.

Sir: Altho' I have not the honor of a personal acquaintance with your Excellency I take the liberty of introducing the bearer Major George Auge. Washington, a Nephew of mine, to you. Bad health, and the advice of his

18. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

physicians induce him to try the Sea Air, and a Vessel presenting from the port of Alexandria for Barbadoes he has taken a passage in her to that Island, from whence he may soon depart for some other, as it may not be proper for him to remain long in a place. I have the honor, etc.¹⁹

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19. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*. It notes that "The above was written to the Governors of the several West India Islands."

To CHEVALIER DE LA LUZERNE

Philadelphia, May 5, 1784.

Sir: It was not until Capt. Hardwine deliver'd the Claret your Excellency was so obliging as to spare me, that I had the least knowledge of its being sent. In consequence of your kind offer to furnish me with three hogsheads, I wrote to Colo. Tilghman (at Baltimore) requesting him to receive and forward it to me; and obtained for answer, that before your Excellency's order had reached your agent at that place, the Wine had been shipped for Phila. In this belief and ignorance, I remained 'till the Wine was actually delivered to me when you were at my Seat in Virginia.

I have given the trouble of reading this detail to apologize for my not having paid for the Wine sooner. Colo. Biddle will now have the honor of doing it, and I pray your Excellency to receive my thanks for the

favor you did me by sparing this quantity from your own Stock. With the greatest personal attachment etc.²¹

To REVEREND WILLIAM GORDON

Philadelphia, May 8, 1784.

Revd. Sir: Every aid which can be derived from my official papers, I am willing to afford, and shall with much pleasure lay before you, whenever the latter can be unfolded with propriety.

It ever has been my opinion however, that no Historian can be possessed of sufficient materials to compile a *perfect* history of the revolution, who has not free access to the

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archives of Congress, to those of the respective States; to the papers of the Commander in chief, and to those of the officers who have been employed in separate Departments. Combining and properly arranging the information which is to be obtained from these sources must bring to view all the material occurrences of the War. Some things probably, will never be known.

Added to this, I have always thought that it would be respectful to the Sovereign power of these United States, to *follow* , rather than to take the lead of them in disclosures of this kind: but if there should be political restraints under which Congress are not inclined at this time to lay open their papers; and these

21. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

On May 5 Washington wrote brief notes to Benjamin Franklin and the Marquis de Lafayette, introducing Nathaniel Tracy, of Massachusetts. The note to Franklin is in the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. A copy of the letter to Lafayette is in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

restraints do not in their opinion extend to mine, the same being signified by that honorable Body to me, my objections to your request will cease. I shall be happy then, as at all times to see you at Mount Vernon, and will lay before you with chearfulness, my *public* papers for your information. With great esteem and regard, I am, etc.²²

***To COMTE DE GRASSE**

Philadelphia, May 15, 1784.

My dear Count: It was at this place I had the honor to receive your favor of the 15th. of March, from L'Orient. The confidence with which you have honored me is a pleasing testimony of your friendship. It shall not be abused; and the

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22. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

On May 8 Washington furnished the usual form of a certificate of service to Lieut. Louis Joseph de Beaulieu, of Pulaski's Legion. A copy of this certificate is in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

promise you have given me, of transmitting the determination of the Court Martial,²⁶ I shall look for the fulfilment of with impatience; but under full persuasion that the enquiry will throw additional lustre on your character. "It was not in your power to command success; but you did more, you deserved it."

I thank you for the memorials you have had the goodness to send me; it is unhappy for me however that I am not sufficiently Master of the French language to read them without assistance; this, when fully obtained will, I have no doubt, enable my judgment to coincide with my wishes; which are as favorable as those of your warmest friend, and greatest admirer can be. With the most respectful attachment, I remain etc.²⁷

***To GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL**

Philadelphia, May 15, 1784.

Dear Sir: It was with great pleasure and thankfulness, I received a recognizance of your friendship in your letter of the 20th. of last month.

It is indeed a pleasure, from the walks of private life to view in retrospect, all the meanderings of our past labors, the difficulties through which we have waded, and the fortunate Haven to which the Ship has been brought! Is it possible after this that it should founder? Will not the All Wise, and all powerfull director of human events, preserve it? I think he will, he may however (for wise

26. Of De Grasse for his defeat by Rodney off Martinique in 1782.

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27. From a facsimile of a tracing of the original in "Leboucher," *Hist. de la Guerre de l'Independence des Etats-Unis* (Paris: 1830), vol. 2, p. 328.

purposes not discoverable by finite minds) suffer our indiscretions and folly to place our national character low in the political Scale; and this, unless more wisdom and less prejudice take the lead in our governments, will most assuredly be the case.

Believe me, my dear Sir, there is no disparity in our ways of thinking and acting, tho there may happen to be a little in the years we have lived; which places the advantages of the corrispondence between us to my Acct., as I shall benefit more by your experience and observations than you can by mine. No corrispondence can be more pleasing than one which originates from similar sentiments, and similar Conduct through (tho' not a long War, the importance of it, and attainments considered) a painful contest. I pray you therefore to continue me among the number of your friends, and to favor me with such observations as shall occur.

As my good friend Colo. Trumbull is perfectly acquainted with the proceedings of the meeting²³ which brought us together, our embarrassments, and final decisions, I will refer the detail of them to him. With the most perfect esteem etc.

[C.H.S.]

***To PHILIP SCHUYLER**

Phila., May 15, 1784.

My dear Sir: It has long been my wish, and until lately my intention to have proceeded from this meeting of the Cincinnati to the Falls of Niagara, and probably into Canada. Two causes however prevent it. My business is of such a nature that I cannot, without great inconvenience, be long absent from home, at this juncture; it is indeed, exceedingly inconve

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23. Of the Society of the Cincinnati.

nient to be away from it at all; the other is, that I am not disposed to be indebted for a Passport into that Country to the British whose *convenient speed* has not permitted them to surrender the Western Posts to us yet.

I cannot but thank you however, my good Sir, for the polite and friendly offers contained in your letters of the 6th. and 12th. Instr.²⁴ both of which are safe at hand; if ever I should have it in my power to make an excursion of that kind nothing could add more to the pleasure of it than having you of the party.

We have been most amazingly embarrassed in the business that brought us here.²⁵ It is now drawing to a conclusion, and will soon be given to the Public, otherwise I would relate it in detail. Mrs. Washington is not with me at this place, otherwise I am sure she wd. join me in best respects to Mrs. Schuyler and yourself. With the greast esteem etc.

[HV.L.]

To COMTE D'ESTAING

Philadelphia, May 15, 1784.

Sir: Any token of regard of whatever intrinsic worth in itself, coming from the Count D'Estaing, must [be] stamped with dignity and respect; but when attended with the esteem and regards of all the Sailors of your Nation, the companions of your honorable Toils in America, is not only agreeably acceptable, it becomes absolutely inestimable. As such I receive the American Eagle,²⁸ which your

24. Not now found in the *Washington Papers*.

25. Meeting of the Society of the Cincinnati.

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28. This was the diamond eagle of the Society of the Cincinnati. D'Estaing's letter of presentation (Feb. 26, 1784) is in the *Washington Papers*. For an illuminating letter respecting the diamond eagle see D'Estaing's letter to La Luzerne (Feb. 18, 1784), printed in "Contenson," *La Société des Cincinnati de France* (Paris: 1934), p. 88.

Excellency has been pleased to present me in the name of all the Sailors of the French Nation. And at the same time that I acknowledge myself hereby inexpressibly honored by that most respectable Body of men. I beg you to assure them in my name of the very high estimation in which I shall ever hold this particular mark of their regard and attention.

To the Navy of France sir, this Country will hold itself deeply indebted: its assistance has rendered practicable those enterprizes, which without it could not with any probability of success, have been attempted. I feel myself happy in this opportunity thro' your Excellency's favour, of paying to the Officers and sailors of His Most Christian Majesty, this tribute of grateful acknowledgment, which I beg you sir to be so obliging as to convey to them, and at the same time to assure yourself of possessing in my breast, every sentiment of inviolable attachment and respect, with which your character has impressed my mind. I have the honor, etc.²⁹

To COMTE D'ESTAING

Philadelphia, May 15, 1784.

Sir: I cannot my dear General express to you all the gratitude which I feel for your very great politeness manifested for me in your letter of the 25th. of Decr.; which I now have the honor and pleasure to acknowledge. The very tender and friendly regards which you are pleased to mention as possessing your mind, for my person and character, have affected me with the deepest sensibility; and will be forever remembered as a most agreeable token from the Count D'Estaing, for whose

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29. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

character as a Gentleman and a soldier, and for whose attention to the American interests and cause, I have ever been impressed with the highest veneration.

I feel myself happy that your Excellency countenances with so much cordiality, the association formed by the officers of the American army, a bond of cement Sir, which if any thing could be wanting for that purpose, will I trust serve to render durable and permanent those mutual friendships and connections, which have happily taken root between the officers of your Army and ours. And I am peculiarly happy to be able to inform you that the wishes expressed in your letter are more than fulfilled; since by the institutions of our Society, as amended and altered at their General Meeting in this City held during the present month, and which will be officially forwarded to the Society in France; your Excellency will find that the honors of it are extended, not only to the few Gentlemen honor'd by your particular mention, but to all the Captns. ranking as Colonels in your Navy; which, altho' not clearly expressed in the original Constitution, is now in the fullest terms provided for and not left to doubtful implication.

I am much pleased with the prospect of soon having the pleasure of seeing in this country our mutual worthy friend de la Fayette. Be assur'd Sir, I shall be among the warmest of his friends who will welcome him to the American shore; and rejoice in an opportunity to embrace him in my arms. I am pleased that our confidence in Majr. L'Enfant has been so honorably placed, and that the business entrusted to that Gentlms'. conduct has been executed to so great satisfaction. With the highest regard, etc.³⁰

30. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

In the *Papers of the Society of the Cincinnati* are drafts or copies of form letters from Washington, some of them in the writing of George Turner, assistant secretary general of the Society, to the following: Rochambeau, Armand, Bougainville, Vioménil, all dated May

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15. To Barras, Lafayette, Luzerne, D'Estaing, and to the senior land and naval officers and other members of the Society of the Cincinnati in France, all dated May 17, 1784. These relating entirely to the affairs of the Cincinnati and signed by Washington, as president general of the society, are omitted here.

On May 16 Washington wrote, briefly, to Comte de Rochambeau, recommending Armand, who wished employment in the French Army. This letter is in the *Rochambeau Papers* in the Library of Congress. (See Washington's letter to Marquise de La Rouerie, May 28, 1784, *post.*)

***To COMTE DE ROCHAMBEAU**

Philadelphia, May 17, 1784.

My dear Count: From the official letters and other proceedings of the general meeting of the Society of the Cincinnati, held at this place, and of which you have copies; you will obtain a thorough knowledge of what the Society have been doing, and the ground upon which it was done; to enter therefore into a further detail of the matter, in this letter, would be mere repetition, alike

troublesome and unnecessary.

The Society could not go into too minute a discrimination of characters, and thinking it best to comprehend, its members by general description, those who will constitute the Society in France must, hereafter, decide upon the pretensions of their Countryman upon the principles of the institution as they are now altered and amended.³¹

I will detain you no longer than while I can repeat the assurances of sincere respect and esteem etc.³²

MARQUISE DE LA ROUERIE

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Mount Vernon, May 28, 1784.

Madam: The Letter which you did me the honor to write from Rouerie on the 12th. of Jany. came to my hands in the course of this month. Language, or my ability, is too poor to express the sense of obligation I am laid under for the flattering sentiments contained therein: let your goodness then Madam, rather than a vain attempt of mine, speak my gratitude.

It is on the merits of your Son, not to any recommendation of mine, the Marqs. de la Rouerie must put in his claim to the smiles of his Prince, and the attention of his Ministers. For me it only belongs to do justice to his services by the most ample certificates of them, which he has

31. The alterations and amendments, however, were not adopted, and the original Institution still prevails. (See *The Institution of the Society of the Cincinnati*, by Francis Apthorp Foster, assistant secretary general (Boston: 1923).)

32. From the original in the *Rochambeau Papers* in the Library of Congress.

In S. A. Harrison's *Memoir of Lieut. Col. Tench Tilghman* (1876), p. III, is printed a brief note from Washington to Tilghman (May 18, 1784), sending to Tilghman one of the Cincinnati eagles, and mentioning that Washington intended to send one to each of his former aides-de-camp. No draft of this note is found in the *Washington Papers*.

obtained from me, and they are accompanied with my warmest wishes for his success. He, more effectually than I, can assure you of the great esteem, regard and veneration, with which I have the honor, etc.³⁹

To MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX

Mount Vernon, June 2, 1784.

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My Dear Sir: The inconvenience with which I left home, and my impatience to return to it, hastened every step I took back, and but for the delay I met with in crossing the Bay, I might have been at home with ease on the Friday after I parted with you. Before eight on thursday morning I was at rock-hall, and not until friday evening could I

39. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

get my horses and carriages over to Annapolis.

It is a real misfortune, that in great national concerns, the Sovereign has not sufficient power to act, or that there should be a contrariety of sentiment among themselves respecting this power. While these matters are in litigation, the public interest is suspended, and important advantages are lost. this will be the case respecting the Western Posts.

My address to Congress, respecting the Gentlemen who had composed my Family, went to two points, neither of which in my judgment could be misconceived; the first, was declaratory of the peculiar services and particular merits of those confidential Officers, who, during the War, had been attached to my person. The second, recommendatory of those who remained in that situation to the hour of my resignation. the latter was not confined to Humphreys and Walker who happened to be with me, but comprehended Cobb, Trumbull, and others who might come under *that* description, whose appointments terminated with my own existence as an officer.

It would at this time, as it will at all others, give me singular pleasure to see you at this place; and I am sorry your anxiety to return would not permit you to extend your excursion from Annapolis.

Permit me to recommend the enclosed for Genl. Putnam, to your care. Mrs. Washington joins in best wishes for you, Mrs. Knox and family, with Dr. Sir Yrs. etc.⁴²

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42. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

***To RUFUS PUTNAM**

Mount Vernon, June 2, 1784.

Dear Sir: I could not answer your favor of the 5th. of April from Philadelpa. because Genl. Knox having mislaid, only presented the letter to me in the moment of my departure from that place. The Sentiments of esteem and friendship which breathe in it are exceedingly pleasing and flattering to me; and you may rest assured they are reciprocal.

I wish it was in my power to give you a more favorable acct. of the Officers petition for Lands on the Ohio, and its Waters than I am about to do. After this matter, and information respecting the establishment for Peace, were my enquiries as I went through Annapolis solely directed but I could not learn that any thing decisive had been done in either. On the latter I hear Congress are differing about their powers but as they have accepted of the Cession from Virginia and have resolved to lay off 10 New States bounded by latitudes and longitudes it should be supposed that they would determine something respecting the former before they adjourn; and yet, I very much question it as the latter is to happen on the third; that is to morrow.

As the Congress who are to meet in November next by the adjournment will be composed from an entire new choice of Delegates in each State it is not in my power at *this time* to direct you to a proper corrispondent in that body. I wish I could, for perswaded I am that to some such cause as you have assigned may be ascribed the delay the petition has encountered for *surely if justice and gratitude* to the Army; and *genl. policy* of the Union were to govern in this case there would not be the smallest interruption in granting its request. I really feel for those Gentlemen who by these unaccountable delays (by any other means than those you have suggested) are held in such an aukward and disagreeable State of

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suspence; and wish my endeavours could remove the obstacles; at Princeton (before Congress left that place) I exerted every power I was master of, and dwelt upon the Arguments you have used to shew the propriety of a speedy decision; every member with whom I conversed acquiesced in the reasonableness of the petition; all yielded, or seemed to yield to the policy of it, but plead the want of cession of the Land to act upon; this is made and accepted and yet matters (as far as they have come to my knowledge) remain in Statu quo.

I am endeavouring to do something with the lands I now hold, and have held in that Country these 12 or 14 years. The enclosed contain the terms upon which I propose to Lease them.⁴³ I am not sanguine in my expectation that I shall obtain Tenants upon them in this Country; and yet, on Leases renewable forever, or for the term of 999 years I will not (considering the advantages of these Lands, in quality and situation) take less, for a *short* term I care little about the Rents because knowing the value and convenience of the Land, I am certain that the improvements which are conditioned to be made thereon, will enable me thereafter to command my own terms; if you think the promulgation of the Paper enclosed can be of Service to others or myself it is optional with you to do it. I am etc.⁴⁴

43. See Advertisement, Mar. 10, 1784. *ante*.

44. From the original in Marietta College.

To THE SUPERINTENDENT OF FINANCE

Mount Vernon, June 2, 1784.

Dear Sir: A brother of mine (Father to Mr. Bushrod Washington, who studied under Mr. Wilson) is desirous of entering his other Son in the commercial line; the inclination of the young Gentleman also points to this walk of life, he is turned of twenty, has just finished a

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regular education, possesses, I am told (for he is a stranger to me) good natural abilities, an amiable disposition, and an uncommon share of prudence and circumspection.

Would it suit you My dear sir, to take him into your countinghouse, and to afford him your patronage? If this is not convenient; who would you recommend for this purpose? What advance, and what other requisites are necessary to initiate him? Excuse this trouble, to comply with the wishes of a parent, anxious for the welfare of his children, I give it, and my friendship prompted it; but I wish you to be perfectly unembarrassed by the application, on either Accot.

If Genl. Armand should have left Philada. you will oblige me by placing the enclosed in the readiest channel of conveyance. My affectionate regards, in which Mrs. Washington joins me, attend Mrs. Morris, yourself and Family. With every sentiment of friendship etc.

P.S. The house I filled with ice does not answer, it is gone already, if you will do me the favor to cause a description of yours to be taken, the size, manner of building, and mode of management, and forwarded to me, I shall be much obliged. My house was filled chiefly with Snow. have you ever tried Snow? do you think it is owing to this that I am lurches.⁴⁵

45. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To DAVID HUMPHREYS

Mount Vernon, June 2, 1784.

My Dr. Humphreys: I very sincerely congratulate you on your late appointment.⁴⁷ It is honorable, and I dare say must be agreeable. I did not hear of it until I arrived at Annapolis, where I remained but one day, and that occasioned by the detention of my Carriage and horses on the Eastern shore. Genl. Knox not reaching that place before I left it, your letter of the 18th., only got to my hands on Sunday last, by the Post.

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I now send you, under flying Seals, letters to Mr. Jefferson, Doctr. Franklin and Count de Estaing; the letter to the Cheer. Chartellux also mentions you and your appointment. My former correspondence with England ceased at the commencement of hostilities, and I have opened no new ones since, but I enclose you a letter to Sir Edwd. Newenham of Ireland, from whom I have lately received several very polite letters, and a pressing invitation to correspond with him. he has been a warm friend to America during her whole struggle, he is a man of fortune, of excellent (as I am told) character; and may, if you should go to Ireland, be a valuable acquaintance.⁴⁸

It only remains for me now to wish you a pleasant passage, and that you may realize all the pleasures which you must have in expectation. It cannot be necessary to add how happy I shall be at all times to hear from you. You will have it in your power to contribute much to my amusement and information; and as far as you can do the latter consistently with your duty and public trust, I shall be obliged, further I do not require, and even here, mark *private* what

47. Humphreys had been elected secretary to the United States Commission for negotiating European treaties of commerce on May 12, 1784.

48. On this same day (June 2) Washington furnished Humphreys with a certificate of his military services as aide-de-camp, and wrote on that same day, also, introductory letters to Comte D'Estaing, Benjamin Franklin, George William Fairfax, Sir Edward Newenham, and to Thomas Jefferson, who had been appointed one of the Commissioners. The purport of all these letters was the same. Copies of all of them are in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*. The original of the letter to Franklin is in the collection of Judge Edward Ambler Armstrong, of Princeton, N.J., and the original of the letter to Jefferson is in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

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you think not altogether fit for the public ear, and it shall remain with me. Mrs. Washington adds her best wishes for you, and you may rest assured that few friendships are warmer, or professions more sincere than mine for you. Adieu etc.

P.S. Just recollecting my old neighbour Colonel (who may now be Lord) Fairfax, I give you a letter to him also, in case you shou'd go to England.⁴⁹

49. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To CHEVALIER DE CHASTELLUX

Mount Vernon, June 2, 1784.

My Dr. Sir: I had the honor to receive a short letter from you by Majr. L'Enfant. My official letter to the Counts D'Estaing and Rochambeau (which I expect will be submitted to the members of the Society of the Cincinnati in France) will inform you of the proceedings of the Genl. Meeting held at Philada. on the 3d. inst.; and of the reasons which induced a departure from some of the original principles and rules of the Society. As these have been detailed, I will not repeat them, and as we have no occurrences out of the common course, except the establishment of ten New States in the Western Territory, and the appointment of Mr. Jefferson (whose talents and worth are well known to you) as one of the Commissioners for forming Commercial Treaties in Europe; I will only repeat to you the assurances of my friendship, and of the pleasure I shou'd feel in seeing you in the shade of those trees which my hands have planted, and which by their rapid growth, at once indicate a knowledge of my declination, and their disposition to spread their mantles over me, before I go hence to return no more, for this, their gratitude, I will nurture them while I stay.

Before I conclude, permit me to recommend Colo. Humphreys, who is appointed Secretary to the Commission, to your countenance and civilities while he remains in France; he

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possesses an excellent heart, and a good understanding. With every sentiment of esteem, etc.⁴⁶

46. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To GOVERNOR BENJAMIN HARRISON

Mount Vernon, June 4, 1784.

Dr. Sir: Long as the enclosed letters and petition appear to have been written, they never came to my hands until thursday last; the latter, altho called a copy, having the marks of an original paper; another copy accompanying it, inducing a belief that it is so, I delay not a moment to hand it forward.

My being perfectly ignorant of the laws of the Commonwealth, and unacquainted, if such confiscations have taken place, with the principles upon which they are founded, must be my apology for taking the liberty of even bringing these papers before the Legislature, for it is not my wish to interfere in the politic's of the State, nor desire, to see discriminations or departures from general principles, which are not warranted by Law or evident propriety; altho' in the present case, it should seem to me hard to divest an Infant, under the circumstances young Briston⁵⁰ is described to be, of his partrimony.

As the petition⁵¹ is directed to the Governr. the Senate and House of Delegates of the State of Virginia, I conceived it best to transmit it, and the Letters relative thereto, to your Excellency. With great consideration and respect, I have the honor, etc.⁵²

50. Robert Briston, of London, England.

51. The original letter and petition of Mary Briston is in the *Washington Papers* under date of Nov. 27, 1783.

52. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To SIR EDWARD NEWENHAM⁵³

Mount Vernon, June 10, 1784.

Dr. Sir: At Philadelphia in the moment of my departure from it on the 18th. of last month, I had the honor to receive (by the Convention, Capt. Workman) your favors of the 30th. of Jany. and 15th. of March; and I recollect to have received about three years ago, by the hands, if I remember right, of a Mr. Collins, a short introductory letter of that Gentleman from you. If you have favored me with others, I have not been happy enough to have received them.

For the honor of these letters, and the favorable sentiments they express of me, you have my sincerest thanks. To stand well in the estimation of good men and honest patriots, whether of this or that clime, or of this or that political way of thinking, has ever been a favorite wish of mine; and to have obtained, by such pursuits as duty to my Country, and the rights of mankind rendered indispensably necessary, the plaudit of Sir Edwd. Newenham, will not be among my smallest felicities. Yes Sir, it was long before you honored me with a line, I became acquainted with your name, your worth and your political tenets; and I rejoice that my own conduct has been such as to acquire your esteem, and to be invited to your friendship. I accept it Sir, with the eagerness of a congenial spirit, and shall be happy in every opportunity of giving you proofs of its rectitude, but none will be more pleasing to me than the opportunity of welcoming you, or any of your family, to this land of liberty; and to *this* my retreat from the cares of public life; where in home-spun and with rural fare, we will invite you to our bed and board.

Your intention of making an establishment for one of your sons, either in Pennsylvania or this State, gives me pleasure: if it should be in the latter, or if you should come to this State first; every information or assistance which it may be in my power to give you, shall

53. Of Dublin, Ireland.

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be rendered with great pleasure; and I shall have pleasure also in paying attention to your recommendation of others.

This is an abounding Country, and it is as fine as it is extensive. With a little political wisdom it may become equally populous and happy. Some of the States having been misled, ran riot for a while, but they are recovering a proper tone again; and I have *no* doubt, but that our federal Constitution will obtain more consistency and firmness every day. We have indeed so plain a road before us, that it must be worse than ignorance if we miss it.

We have no distinct account yet how the Elections have gone in Gt. Britain; consequently do not know the result of the Kings appeal to the people of that Country; it is a very important one, and shews that the affairs of that Kingdom are in a critical situation. This being the case also in Ireland, it would not be matter of wonder, if some important changes should take place in those hemispheres.

I am much obliged to you for the Pamphlets, Magazines and Gazettes which you were so kind as to send me; and can only repeat to you assurances of the pleasure I shou'd have in seeing you under my roof. Mrs. Washington joins me in best respects to Lady Newenham, to whom, for receiving, and the Marqs. de la Fayette, for presenting my picture, I feel myself under grateful obligations. You will please to accept my thanks for your friendly offers of service in Ireland; if at any time I should have any thing to do there, there is no person to whom I would so soon chuse to lay under the obligation. I have the honor, etc.⁵⁴

54. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To CALEB BREWSTER

Mount Vernon, June 10, 1784.

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Sir: I believe you have been misinformed as to a resolve of Congress, allowing officers on separate commands, extra pay, I have heard, of no such resolution, on the contrary, that these allowances were withdrawn. It was with great difficulty General Knox could obtain compensation for his extra-expences during his commd. at the post of West-point, where from the nature of it, he was absolutely obliged to encounter them, or turn strangers out of his house. I know also that application was made in favor of Lt. Colo. Hull, who, whilst he was on the lines, exposed to the visits; and in a manner compelled to entertain a number of British officers, and had it not at his option to avoid expence, but with what success it was made I have never heard; this however I do know, that there were powerful objections made to both, lest it should open a door to a multitude of applications which Congress were determined not to comply with.

Lest I shou'd be mistaken, in supposing there is no such resolve as you allude to, I enclose a Certificate⁵⁵ which may be made use of, if there is.

I hope you soon will be, if you are not already, perfectly recovered of your wound, my best wishes are offered for it; being with esteem and regard, Dr. Sir, Yrs. etc.⁵⁶

55. This certificate stated "that in the year 1778, whilst the American Army lay at the White plains, it became necessary to station an officer and a few men, on the Sound to keep open a communication with the City of New York by the way of Long Island, for the purpose of my secret corrispondence: that Capt. Lt. Brewester of the 2d. regiment of Artillery was chosen for this service; that circumstances made it necessary to continue him therein until the close of the War. And as far as I know or believe, that he conducted the business with fidelity, judgment and bravery, having received a wound whilst he was on that duty, of which I am informed, he is not yet recovered." This copy is in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

56. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

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To JAMES WOOD

Mount Vernon, June 12, 1784.

Dr. Sir: In answer to your favor of the 5th., I have to inform you that I can find nothing in my letter or orderly books confirmatory or disapproving the arrangements which have been made of the Virginia line of the army in the year 1782. the presumption therefore is, if they ever came to hand, that they either obtained a silent acquiescence, or that I did not care to intermeddle in them at all, as part of the line was in So. Carolina, and the whole (by a resolve of Congress) were considered as belonging to the Southern army. If I should hereafter come across anything which can illucidate the point more fully, it shall be transmitted to you.⁵⁹

It gives me pleasure to hear that the alterations in the institution of the Society of the Cincinnati meets general approbation, if a sincere disposition in those who composed the general Meeting to remove all the objectionable parts of it, and give satisfaction to their Country, could have a claim to its approbation; their conduct could not fail of this reward. With very great esteem etc.⁶⁰

59. The right of superseded Virginia officers to be awarded Virginia land grants.

60. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To RICHARD HENRY LEE

Mount Vernon, June 12, 1784.

Dear Sir: Unsolicited by, and unknown to Mr. Paine, I take the liberty of hinting the services, and distressed (for so I think it may be called) situation of that Gentleman. That his Commonsense, and many of his Crisis's, were well timed, and had a happy affect upon the public mind, none I believe who will recur to the epochas at which they were published,

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will deny: that his services hither to have passed off unnoticed, is obvious to all; and that he is chagrined and necessitous, I will undertake to aver. Does not common justice then point to some compensation? He is not in circumstances to refuse the public bounty. New York, not the least distressed, or most able State in the Union have set the example. He prefers the benevolence of the States individually, to an allowance from Congress, for reasons which are conclusive in his own mind, and such as I think may be approved by others; his views are moderate; a decent independency is, I believe, the height of his ambition; and if you view his services in the American cause in the same important light that I do, I am sure you will have pleasure in obtaining it for him. I am, etc.⁶³

***To JAMES MADISON**

Mount Vernon, June 12, 1784.

Dear Sir: Can nothing be done in our Assembly for poor Paine? Must the merits, and Services of *Common Sense* continue to glide down the stream of time, unrewarded by this Country? His writings certainly have had a powerful effect on the public mind; ought they not then to meet an adequate return?

63. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

He is poor! he is chagreened! and almost, if not altogether, in despair of relief. New York it is true, not the least distressed, nor best able State in the Union, has done something for him. This kind of provision he prefers to an allowance from Congress; he has reasons for it, which to him are conclusive, and such I think as would have weight with others. His views are moderate; a decent independency is, I believe, all he aims at. Should he not obtain this? If you think so, I am sure you will not only move the matter, but give it your support. For me, it only remains to feel for his Situation, and to assure you of the sincere esteem and regard with which I have the honor &c.⁶¹

To PATRICK HENRY

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Mount Vernon, June 12, 1784.

Dear Sir: After a long silence, more the effect of great hurry and business, than want of inclination; permit me to recall myself to your mind, by introducing to your recollection Mr. Paine, the Author of Commonsense, the Crisis &c.

To say what effect the writings of this Gentleman has had on our public affairs at the epochas at which they were given to the world, would, to a person of your information, be altogether unnecessary; it is more for his interest, and to my present

61. From a facsimile in a sales catalogue, 1892.

Madison's reply (July 2) told of the defeat of a land grant to Paine in the Virginia Legislature. Madison's letter is in the *Washington Papers*. The draft of it, in the *Madison Papers*, attributes the defeat to Arthur Lee.

purpose to add, that he stands unrewarded for his exertions in the American cause, is poor, and I believe very much chagrined at the little notice which has been taken of him for his lucubrations.

New York, lately, has testified her sense of his merits by a donation which is very pleasing to him; and from individual States, rather than from Congress (for reasons which seem to have weight in his mind,) he wishes they might be continued in this line. If his services appear in your eyes to merit reward, I am persuaded you will endeavor to do justice to them.

I mention this matter to you equally unsolicited by, as unknown to him; for I never have heard that he has it in contemplation to bring himself before any State in the Union. Convinced as I am of the efficacy of his publications, and of the little attention shewn him for them, I could not with hold this attempt to serve him, and to assure you of the esteem and regard with which I have the honor etc.⁶²

To EDMUND RANDOLPH

Mount Vernon, June 12, 1784.

Dear Sir: At my return from Philada. I met your favor of the 15th. ulto., and since, have received that of the 28th. The rough draft of the conveyance from Colo. Bassett to me, appearing to be just in recital, and, I presume, legal in form; I return it with a wish that the business may be finally accomplished as soon as circumstances will permit. With respect to the Suit of Doctr.

62. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

Savage, you will be so good as to inform Mr. Fairfax or myself of the determination of his Executor (when he shall have taken it), that we may proceed accordingly. With the sincerest esteem, etc.⁶²

***To MRS. MARY BRISTON**

Mount Vernon, (in Virginia), June 15, 1784.

Madam: Your letter and the duplicate of it, dated the 27th. of last November with the petitions to the Assembly of this State, only came to my hands the 10th. Instant. By the following Post I transmitted them to the Governor, as the Legislature was then sitting at Richmond.

What effect the application may have on that body, is not for me, at this time, to announce; it is to be feared however, as the Lands were involved in the act of general confiscation, previous to the preliminary Articles of Peace, that unless there is something in the case more discriminating than Minority (which I understand is not an exclusion in the Law) you will receive very little redress; but from any thing I know at present of the Issue (if a determination has been had upon the Subject) I can furnish you with no information on

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which to ground either hope, or fear. If it were the latter, it would afford cause for regret, that Minors, and innocent persons who have not aided or abetted the Contest should have become sufferers by it. This however is but too often the case in Civil, as well as other Commotions.

I have not delayed a moment,

62. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

Madam, to acknowledge, after they came to my hands, the receipt of your letter and petition, and shall have great pleasure in announcing the favorable issue of the latter, if the fact will warrant it. With great respect I have the honor etc.⁶⁴

***To BARBÉ MARBOIS**

Mount Vernon, June 20, 1784.

Sir: It was with very great pleasure I received from your own pen, an acct. of the agreeable, and happy connection you were about to form with Miss Moore.⁶⁶ Though you have given many proofs of your predilection and attachment to this Country, yet this last may be considered not only as a great and tender one, but as the most pleasing and lasting tie of affection. The accomplishments of the lady, with her connections, cannot fail to make it so. On this joyous occasion, accept I pray you, the congratulations of Mrs. Washington and myself, who cannot fail to participate in whatever contributes to your felicity and that of your amiable Concor; with whom we both have the happiness of an acquaintance, and to whom and the family, we beg leave to present our Compliments. With very great esteem and regard and an earnest desire to approve myself worthy of your friendship, I have the honor etc.⁶⁷

64. From a photostat of the original in British Museum *Addl. Mss.* 9828.

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66. Daughter of Judge William Moore, of "Moore Hall," near Valley Forge, Pa.

67. From a photostat of the original in the *Paris Archives, Aff. Etrang., Mems. et. Docs., E. U.*, vol. 6.

To I. SAILLY

Mount Vernon, June 20, 1784.

Sir: I have been favor'd with a letter from you dated at Philad. the 4th. inst: I cannot better answer to queries therein, than by sending one of my advertisements; which is not only descriptive of my Lands in the back parts of this Country, but fully explanatory of the terms upon which they are to be obtained. If any of these lands should suit you and such families as you might incline to bring from France and Germany, and the terms are convenient and agreeable, it would be pleasing to me, that I have it in my power to accommodate you and your friends.

I have no other untenanted Lands, than what are mentioned in the enclosed Advertisement, except about 1200 acres within five miles of Alexandria which is altogether in wood, and the soil not of the first quality. I am, etc.⁶⁵

To SAMUEL VAUGHAN⁶⁸

Mount Vernon, June 20, 1784.

Dr. Sir: I have had the honor of your favor of the 1st. instant.⁶⁹ It gives me pain that you should think it necessary to apologize for the delay of the marble chimney piece. it gives me much more I confess, that you ever should have thought of depriving another house of it. If it is not too late, I wou'd

65. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

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68. Of London, England.

69. Not now found in the *Washington Papers*.

yet pray you to countermand the order; if it is, I must view the act as a most striking instance of your politeness; and shall consider the fixture of it in my house, more as a monument of your friendship, than as a decoration of my room, (which, for want of workmen, remains in statu quo), and value it accordingly.

I hope this will find you, Mrs. Vaughan and the young Ladies in perfect health and spirits, and much pleased with the tour you were about to take when you wrote last: the next I hope, will be southwardly, where Mot. Vernon will lay claim to the happiness of seeing you. With great esteem etc.70

To EDWARD SNICKERS

Mount Vernon, June 25, 1784.

Dear Sir: Upon my return from Philada., I found your favor of the 17th. of May at this place. For your kind intention to make me a visit, I thank you, and shall always be glad to see you when it is convenient. With respect to the other matters mentioned in your letter, all *that* business is now in the hands of the Hoble Mr. John Mercer, by a decree of the high Court of Chancery of this State. I have nothing therefore to do with the settlement of accounts, transferences of Lands &ca. It is possible, tho'; even of this I am not certain, that under the former power of Attorney and decree of the Court, it may be necessary for me to sign the Deeds for such Lotts as were not conveyed at the time of sale; but before I do this, it must be certified to me by Mr. Mercer, that the terms of sale are complied with, and that it is

70. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

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On June 24 Washington issued the following advertisement from Mount Vernon, which appeared in the *Pennsylvania Pocket and General Advertiser* a month later: "To be Let to the highest Bidder for the Term of Ten Years, on Wednesday the 15th of September next, on the Premises, to be entered upon at Christmas. or sooner if the Crops can be disposed of, The Plantation or Farm on which Mr. Gilbert Simpson, the Co-partner, now lives, lying in the county of Fayette, state of Pennsylvania, commonly called and known by the name of Washington Bottom...." The livestock and mill were described and then followed two paragraphs: "At the time and place aforesaid, will be Let to the highest Bidder, for the Term of Ten Years, a Lot of Land at, and including the Great Meadow, or larger part of it... At Bath in the county of Berkeley, on Tuesday the 7th of September next, will be Let to the highest Bidder, for the Term of seven years, A small Peninsula, or Neck of Land, (formed by a bend of the river) containing 240 acres; near 200 of which is rich low ground. This land is scituate on Potowmack river...12 miles above the Springs, or town of Bath..."

proper for me to do so, this, as I have long declined acting upon the affairs of Colo. Geo: Mercer and his Mortgages, is necessary for my own justification.

Whatever Mr. James Mercer may have promised respecting the payment of his Brother's Debt to you, I know not; but think there must have been a misconception with respect to my doing it; further than saying it was reasonable it should be so and ought to be allowed. All I had to do in the matter, under the decree of the Court, was to sell the Estate, the amount of which was to be subject to a future decree. If £12,500 was sufficient to discharge the several Mortgages upon it, the overplus undoubtedly would be subject to the payment of all just claims against Colo. Mercer, but how this matter really is, I know not. The moment I found I could no longer discharge the duties of the power under which I acted, I wrote to Colo. Tayloe (the other Attorney) to take the business wholly upon himself as I should no longer act, or consider myself responsible for the management of the Trust.

I shall, as soon as I can make it convenient, divide the Lotts I bought at Mr. Mercers sale, into proper sized Tenements, and let them for a term of years to those who will give the

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highest annual rent, when a day shall be fixed for that purpose. if any persons should be making enquiries of you respecting them, you will be pleased to give them this information. I am, etc.⁷¹

71. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

***To CLEMENT BIDDLE**

Mount Vernon, June 30, 1784.

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 10th. Instt. covering an Invoice of Goods shipped by the Betsey Captn. Broadhurst is come safe to hand, the Vessel is also arrived at Alexandria; and I shall send up this day for the things. I wish the matrasses had *all* been among them, as the Season is wasting fast in which they are most useful.

I have perused the Accts. you have delivered in at Sundry times and find the debits and credits to stand thus. If they are not all brought to view you will please to note it, and rectify the mistake

1783 July 23. Ticklenburgh & Blankts. pr Bill £204.13. 0 Paid Carriage of Do 13.15.— Octr. Sundries pr Bills 201. 19. 7 Stays Mrs. L. Washington 3.15.— Commisn. 2½ pr Ct. 10. 7.— £424. 9. 7 Decr. 19. Bringhurst Wheels &ca 15.2.— March. Coffee, Sieves, & Lace 14.12. 6 May. Chevr. de la Luzerne 30.—.— Cundries pt. Cap: Hayden 44. 7.4 ½ June 9. Goods pr the Betsey. Broadhurst 50.18. 7 £579. 10. 0½ 1783 Cash in Bank Notes £300.—.— Decr. 11. Ditto.400 Dolrs 150.—.— £450.—.— 1784 May 5. Cash sent you in a letter to pay the Cher. de la Luzerne &ca. 250 dollrs. 93. 15. 0 Balle due C B 35.15. 0½ £579.10. 0½

Tomorrow in the hands of some person in Alexandria, I will deposit for the use of Mr. Richardson⁷² one hundred and fifty dollars on your Acct. and I pray you to pay Mr. Claypoole⁷³ agreeably to the contents of my letter to him, wch. is under cover with this, and left open for your perusal; as also the German Printer⁷⁴ if he ever inserted the Advertisement respecting my Western Lands, and for the one now enclosed for *him*, to be done in the manner requested of Mr. Claypoole. Whatever these Sums, with the price of

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the Mattrasses, may over run the deposit I am about to make for Mr. Richardson I will pay to you, or your order, upon demand.

As the Price of the Hinges appear to me to be very high, and I am not in immediate want of them

72. Thomas Richardson, of Georgetown.

73. David C. Claypoole. No draft, or copy of Washington's letter to him, is now found in the *Washington Papers*.

74. Melchior Steiner(?).

(having been disappointed of Workman) I will postpone for the *present* employing the man Mr. Rakestraw has found. If I should hereafter be under the necessity of giving such a prices I will attend to the direction in your letter; for which I am obliged, both to you and Mr. Rakestraw.

I recollect sometime in the course of last year to have begged you to purchase for me from the redemptioners or Indented (Germans or Irish) a House joiner and Bricklayer. Many I have seen Advertised for Sale in Philadelphia of late; should this happen again I would pray your attention to my former request. It might be well to have them examined by skilful Workmen, for many will call themselves Bricklayers who have only been mortar makers; and others joiners who knew little of the Trade. I would prefer elderly men to very young ones, if there is choice, and their being sent by water (round) to any other conveyance. The Cost and expence of these if you should make a purchase shall be paid as soon as it is made known to Dr. Sir Yr. etc.

PS. I shall be obliged to you for sending me 70 yds. of gilded Border for papered Rooms (of the kind you shewed me when I was in Philadelphia). That which is most light and Airy

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I should prefer. I do not know whether it is usual to fasten it on with Brads or Glew; if the former I must beg that as many be sent as will answer the purpose.

[H.S.P.]

To THE SUPERINTENDENT OF FINANCE

Mount Vernon, June 30, 1784.

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 15th. did not reach my hands till the 27th. I will delay no time in communicating the contents of Mr. Constable's⁷⁵ letter to my brother; but as he lives at the distance of near an hundred miles from me, and out of the post road, it may be some time before I can obtain his answer.

This being the case, as it may be some disadvantage to Mr. Constable to be held in suspence, and as the application to you, originated, respecting the manner of carrying on business; I think I can venture to desire that Mr. Constable may not suffer himself to forego another choice on account of my Nephew, or to sustain the least inconvenience from waiting the answer of my brother.

When my brother talked of sending his youngest son to Philada., I advised the application I made to you. I recollected, that either Mr. Vanberkel or Mr. Vaughan had told me that he had fixed one of his sons in your Counting-house. Your extensive correspondence and knowledge in trade I conceived might introduce my Nephew (if, during the course of his apprenticeship, he should display a genius for it, and assiduity,) advantageously into business, and that in so doing your own plans might be subserved. How far his engaging with Mr. Constable will open prospects of this nature, is not for me to determine, tho; I could wish his Father may decide for the best, who is a tender parent, has the welfare of his children much at heart, and entertains sanguine hopes of his Son, whose inclination prompts him to move on the mercantile stage.

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I am very much obliged by the description⁷⁶ of your Icehouse; I will build one this summer or Fall, agreeably thereto, but upon a scale something larger, if workmen can be obtained. Mrs. Washington joins me in affectionate compliments to Mrs. Morris and yourself, whom we

75. William Constable, of New York.

76. Morris letter of June 15, 1784, is in the *Washington Papers*.

should be exceedingly happy to see here, whenever it can be made convenient to you both. With sincere esteem etc.⁷⁷

To JOHN RUMNEY⁷⁹

Mount Vernon, July 3, 1784.

General Washington presents his compliments to Mr. Rumney, would esteem it as a particular favor if Mr. Rumney would make the following enquiries as soon as convenient after his arrival in England, and communicate the result of them by the Packet, or any other safe and speedy conveyance to this Country.

1st. The terms upon which the best kind of Whitehaven Flagstone, black and white in equal quantities, could be delivered at the Generals landing or at the Port of Alexanda. by the superficial foot, with the freight and every other incidental charge included. The Stone to be 2 ½ inches thick, or thereabouts, and exactly a foot square each kind (i.e. black and white), to have a well polished face and good joints, so as that a neat floor may be made for the Colnade in the front of his house. Stone thus prepared must be carefully packed, otherwise the face and edges would be damaged; the expence of which should also be taken into the accot.

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2d. Upon what terms the common Irish marble, (black and white if to be had, and of the same dimensions) could be had, delivered as above.

3d. As the General has been informed of a very cheap kind of marble, good in quality wch. is to be had at, or in the neighbourhood of Ostend in France, he would thank Mr. Rumney, if it should fall in his way, to institute

77. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

79. Of Whitehaven, England.

the same enquiry respecting this also, and give information thereon.

On the report of Mr. Rumney, the General will take his ultimate determination, for which reason he prays him to be precise. The Piazza or colonade, for which this Stone is wanted as for the purpose of a floor, is ninety two feet eight inches, by twelve feet 8 inches, within the border or margin, which surround it. Over and above this quantity if the Flag is cheap, or a cheaper kind of hard stone could be had, he would get as much as would lay the floors of the circular Colonades at the end wings of the House, each of which in length at the outer curve is 38 feet, by 7 feet 2 inches in breadth within the margin.

The General being in want of a House Joiner and Bricklayer, who understand their respective trades perfectly, would thank Mr. Rumney for enquiring into the terms upon which such workmen could be engaged for two or three years (the time of service to commence from their arrival at Alexandria), a less term than *two years* would not answer, because foreigners generally have a seasoning, which with interruptions too frequent, wasted the greater part of the first year, more to the disadvantage of the hirer, than the hired. Bed board and tools to be found by the Employer, cloaths by the Employed. If two men of the above Trades, and of orderly and quiet deportment could be obtained for twenty five, or even thirty pounds sterling pr. annum each (estimating Dollars at 4/6) the General rather than encounter delay would be obliged to Mr. Rumney for entering into

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proper articles of agreement on his behalf with them, and for sending them out on the Vessel to this port.⁸⁰

80. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

On July 5 Washington wrote again to Rumney, sympathizing with him on the death of his eldest son who is called "Colo. Rumney." This was, possibly, Col. William Rumney, of the Virginia Militia.

To THOMAS RICHARDSON

Mount Vernon, July 5, 1784.

This day se'night a letter for you covering Bank Notes for 150 Dollars was lodged in the hands of Mr. Watson. Since (that is on Saturday last) I received your favor of the 27th. ulto. enclosing the cost of four Matrasses £49:10.2., a price which exceeds anything I had the most distant idea of; in a word it is an errant imposition of the workman, and therefore I hope Colo. Biddle will enquire into the matter before the accot. is paid. If notwithstanding, other people pay at these rates, I must submit, tho' I could have bought in Alexandria as *large* and as *good* hair Matrasses covered with ticking for £3.10., as the one which I have already received from Philada.;

but this I was unacquainted with until I returned from that place, and then it was too late I *thought* to countermand my order. Under this cover you will receive one hundred and twenty dollars more, in Bank Notes for the use of Colo. Biddle, to whom, as I have not received a letter myself from him, I pray you to mention my sentiments respecting the Mattresses.

You would oblige me by causing one of the inclosed Advertisements to be affixed in Georgetown, Bladensburgh, Fredericktown, Hagerstown, and any other place which you

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may think proper on the Maryland side of the Potomac. I shall put one of them in the Baltimore paper next week. I am, etc.⁸¹

To JOHN FRANCIS MERCER

Mount Vernon, July 8, 1784.

Sir: Strange as it may seem, it is nevertheless true, that I have not had it in my power to transmit the enclosed Statement of Accots. between your Father's Estate and Brothers, and myself, before this; and now it is possible there may be omissions, for I find my affairs (as far as the little leisure I have will enable me to look into them) in very great disorder, requiring at least a Winter's close application to assort papers and adjust Accounts.

I send these Accounts just as they stand upon my books, no credit I believe is omitted, if I am mistaken however, they may be allowed now, or whenever the three accots. can, or ought to be blended in one; your brother and self may determine this point. I pray you and him to make such a general statement as will ascertain the balance when all the credits are

81. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

allowed. I know you will do me justice in this, and I want no more; but beg to have a copy of it transmitted to me as soon as convenient. I have not struck a balance on either of the accounts, because of Interest, and stopage of interest at proper epochas, which must come into the final settlements of all.

I can only repeat to you, how convenient it would be to me to receive that balance. I do assure you Sir, that I am distressed for want of money, and know not, as I never was accustomed to it, how to parry a dun. Nevertheless, I would not have you adopt measures, or precipitate a Sale which may be injurious to yourself.

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Will you be so good as to ask your Brother in what manner I am to obtain Deeds for the two Lotts I bought at Colo. Mercers sale, and which are credited in his Accot.? With esteem and regard, I am, etc.⁸²

DOCTOR JAMES CRAIK

Mount Vernon, July 10, 1784.

Dear Doctor: I have come to a resolution (if not prevented by any thing at present unforeseen) to take a trip to the Western Country this Fall, and for that purpose to leave home the first of September. By appointment I am to be at the Warm-Springs the 7th. of that month; and at Gilbert Simpsons the 15th., where, having my partnership accounts, with some of very long standing to settle, and things to provide for the trip to the Kanhawa, I expect to be by the 10th. or 11th., that is four or five days before the 15th.

82. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

It is possible, tho' of this I cannot be certain at this time, that I shall, if I find it necessary to lay my Lands off in lotts, make a day or two's delay at each of my tracts upon the Ohio, before I reach the Kanhawa, where my stay will be the longest, and more or less according to circumstances.

I mention all these matters that you may be fully apprized of my plan, and the time it may probably take to accomplish it. If under this information it would suit you to go with me, I should be very glad of your company; no other, except my nephew Bushrod Washington, and that is uncertain, will be of the party; because it can be no amusement to others to follow me in a tour of business, and from one of my tracts of Land to another; (for I am not going to explore the Country, nor am I in search of Fresh lands, but to secure what I have); nor wou'd it suit me to be embarrassed by the plans, movements or whims of others, or even to have my own made unwieldly; for this I shall continue to decline all overtures which may be made to accompany me. Your business and mine lays in the same part of

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the country and are of a similar nature; the only difference between them is, that mine may be longer in the execution.

If you go, you will have occasion to take nothing from hence, but a servant to look after your horses, and such bedding as you may think proper at make use of. I will carry a Marquee, some camp utensils, and a few Stores. A Boat, or some other kind of vessel will be provided for the voyage down the river, either to my place on the Yohoghaney or Fort Pitt, measures for this purpose having been already taken. A few medicines, and hooks and lines you may probably want. My Complimts. and best wishes in which Mrs. Washington joins, are offered to Mrs. Craik and your family, and I am, with sincere esteem etc.⁸³

83. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To GILBERT SIMPSON

Mount Vernon, July 10, 1784.

Mr. Simpson: This letter and the enclosed Advertisements will be delivered to you, I expect, by Mr. George McCormick. The like advertisements are sent to many other parts, and will appear in the Philada., Baltimore and Alexandria News-papers, that the most public notice thereof may be given. I have also sent one to Fort Pitt. The six which are sent you, may be disposed of at such places over the mountains as you shall think best.

My part of the Stock (except Negroes, which may be necessary to finish the crop) will certainly be disposed of. Your half may also be sold, and you to purchase in what you like on your own account; or set apart by a fair and equal division before the sale, as may be agreed upon when I come up. The Land and Mill will also be let in the manner described;⁸⁷ for I cannot in justice to myself, any longer submit to such management, waste of property, and losses, as I have hitherto sustained by my partnership with you.

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I shall bring up all my acco'ts and memorandums in order to have a final settlement, and desire you will collect every paper and thing which can serve to put matters in a fair point of view; for tho' I do not expect to be compensated for my losses, nor mean to be rigid in my settlement, yet common sense, reason and justice, all require that I should have a satisfactory account rendered of my property which has been entrusted to your care, in full confidence of getting something for ten or twelve years use of it.

The letter, which will accompany this, for the commanding Officer of Fort Pitt, I beg you to send by some person who

87. The terms were probably the same as those given in the advertisement in the *Pennsylvania Packet and General Advertiser* of July 29, 1784, signed by G. Washington, and dated Mount Vernon, June 24, 1784, respecting a plantation, mill, etc., in Fayette County, Pa. (See last note on page 426, *ante*.)

will be pointed in delivering it to him: he is desir'd to lodge an answer at your house by the 10th., which you will keep 'till I arrive. I have wrote to know what things I can be provided with at Fort Pitt for a trip down the Ohio, that I may be enabled to determine the moment I get to your house, whether to build a Boat and hire hands or not. Let the materials, as I mentioned to you when here, for building a Boat be provided notwithstanding; because if they are not wanted, they can readily be disposed of; and if they are, it will facilitate my passage exceedingly. You may also, without making an absolute purchase of anything, know where and upon what terms, provision for man and horse; and such other articles, Liquor, Butter, Cheese, Saltmeat, Salt &c. can be had, that no delay may take place, in these enquiries after I get out, if they should be found necessary. I would wish to know also if a good Hunter and Waterman could be had, and upon what terms: and if you should see Mr. Hite who formerly assisted Colonel Crawford in his Surveys of the land I hold on the Ohio and Kanhawa, ask him if it would suit him to go down the river with me, in case I should find it necessary to take a surveyor, and upon what terms by the day or month; as

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I do not know what, or whether I shall have anything for him to do, more than to shew me the land, 'till I get upon it, or know what prospect there is of settling it. I am, etc.⁸⁸

To THE COMMANDING OFFICER AT FORT PITT⁸⁹

Mount Vernon, July 10, 1784.

If nothing, unforeseen at present, happens to prevent it, I propose to be at my plantation on Yohoghaney the 10th. of September, which with my Mill and other matters will be disposed of the 15th.

88. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

89. Capt. David Lockett, of the Maryland battalion. He served to June, 1785.

as you may see by the enclosed Advertisements, from thence I have thoughts of visiting my Lands on the Great Kanhawa, and on the Ohio between the two Kanhawas, if I can do it conveniently, and obtain the means for a water conveyance.

Let me request the favor of you therefore Sir, to inform me by a line to be left at my Plantation in the care of Mr. Gilbert Simpson, whether there are any public Boats at the post under your command, which might answer my purpose; if there are not, whether one or more could be hired from the Inhabitants in the vicinity of it, and at what price by the day, with hands to navigate her, as also without hands. whether you could spare me from the Garrison three or four trusty Soldiers (a corporal one of them) for the trip, and whether provision for man and horse could be purchased at Fort Pitt, with liquor for such a jaunt, and on what terms. 'Tis probable I may want water transportation &c. for ten Horses.⁹⁰

I persuade myself you will excuse the trouble this application will occasion you, and think there is no impropriety in my request respecting the Boat and Soldiers; if I had thought there was, I pledge myself to you I should not have made it. I am desirous of meeting your answer at Mr. Simpsons to *all* these queries by the 10th., because my ultimate

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measures must be decided on at that place the moment I arrive there, and no time ought to be lost in having recourse to other measures if I cannot be supplied with you. I am, etc.⁹¹

90. When Washington reached Fort Pitt, he met with reports of Indian temper and uprising that made it inadvisable to go down the Ohio. That part of his trip was abandoned, and he traveled on horseback to Rockingham County, Va., and returned through Culpeper, Prince William, and Colchester to Mount Vernon.

91. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To EDMUND RANDOLPH

Mount Vernon, July 10, 1784.

Dear Sir: The last post brought me your favor of the 3d., and the post preceeding, that of the 27th. ulto. My particular thanks are due for the attention you have paid to the renewal of my Patents, your Fees on this, and the other business you have had the management of for me, I would gladly pay, if you will please to let me know the amount. Whether it is to Mr. Mercer (who by order of Court, has the property of his Brother George in his hands) or to me, you look for your fee in the suit depending between Gravat and others in the high Court of Chancery, I know not; if the latter, please to advise me that I may take measures to obtain the money.

In looking over some of my papers the other day, I found a Memom. of a prize (half an acre) which I drew in Colo. Byrds lottery, in the Town of Richmond, the number of the ticket is 4965. and that of the Lott, or prize 265. this is all I got for twenty tickets on my own Accot. The same Memodm. informs me, that in partnership with Peyton Randolph (your uncle), John Wayles, George Wythe, Richard Randolph, Lewis Burwell, William Fitzhugh (Chatham), Thompson Mason, Nathl. Harrison Jut. and Richd. Kidder Mead Esqrs. (ten in all), I have, or ought to have a joint interest in the following prizes, the produce of an

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hundred Tickets which were purchased amongst us. Vizt. No. 3181—half an acre—No. 270. 3186—Do Do 138. 3193—100 Acres 823. 5325—half an Acre 237. 5517—100 Acres 751. 5519—half an Acre 257.

If it would not be inconvenient to you, it would oblige me to let me know (if you can) what is become of this property; and of what value it is, especially the Lott No. 265 which I hold in my own right; for I faintly recollect to have heard that the joint stock was disposed of to no great advantage for the company

for me, I am sure it was not, as I have never received an iota on account of these prizes. With very great esteem and regard, I am, etc.⁹²

MEMORANDUM GIVEN TO GEORGE McCORMICK

July 12, 1784.

Genl. Washington requests Mr. McCormick to set up the Advertisements herewith enclosed at the following places. Leesburgh, Shepherdstown, Hagerstown, Martinsburg, Warm springs, and the Oldtown, or thereabouts. The above to be of those which have the writing in the Margin. The others to be set up along the road above the Oldtown, and at such other places over the Mountains as Mr. McCormick may think best; letting Mr. Simpson know the places, that he may not send those which are inclosed to him, to the same.

The letter to the Commanding officer at Fort Pitt to be sent by Mr. McCormick or Simpson as they may agree, it ought to go safe and soon.

Mr. McCormick will please to inform those persons, or the leaders of them, who are settled upon the Generals Land on Millers run, that he, McCork., has seen and read his Deed for it, that the said Deed bears date the 5th. day of July 1774, and the Survey the 23d. of March 1771, that this Land was granted in virtue of the Kings proclamation in Octor. 1763,

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and is part of 3000 acres bought of Capt. Posey (an officer) who was entitled to so much under that Proclamation, as is recited in the Deed; that the agreement between the States of Virginia and

92. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

Pennsylvania secures this right to the General, who did, at their first settling upon the land, and at sundry times since, which is easy to be proved, give them notice that it was his, and forewarned them of the consequences of presevering in an error; and lastly, it may be neighbourly and friendly in Mr. McCormick to advise them, if they have a mind to avoid all the expence, and all the disagreeable consequences which may result from the prosecution of his right to the highest Court it can finally be determined in; it might be well for them to think seriously of an accommodation, either by removing, or becoming Tenants; and that this is not to be delayed beyond the time the Genl. has appointed to rent his Mill &c.

If Mr. McCormick shou'd see Mr. Hite who assisted Colo. Crawford in surveying the Generals Lands on the Ohio and Gr. Kanhawa, he would be obliged to him for asking Mr. Lite whether, in case the General shou'd find it necessary when he gets to Mr. Simpson's, to take a Surveyor down with him, it would suit him to go; and upon what terms, by the day or month. The General does not [wish] Mr. Hite engaged actually, because he does not, at this time certainly know whether he shall want a Surveyor or not.⁹³

To TENCH TILGHMAN

Mount Vernon, July 14,⁹⁴ 1784.

Dear Sir: I nephew of mine⁹⁵ Brother to the young gentleman who studied Law under Mr. Wilson, is inclined to enter into a Mercantile walk of life, and his Father is desirous he should do so. He has just compleated a regular Education, is about twenty years of

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age, Sober and serious, sensible, and I am *told* , remarkably prudent and assiduous in the completion of whatever he takes in hand. This is the

93. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

94. A sales catalogue dates this letter July 4.

95. Corbin Washington.

character he bears, personally, I know little of him.

I have expressed a wish to his Father that he might be placed under your care, and it is very pleasing to him, let me ask then My Dr. Sir, if it would be convenient for you to take him into your counting House, and immediately under your eye. If I had not conceived, from the character he bears, that he would do you no discredit, but may, when he is qualified, subserve your views in Trade, while he is promoting his own, I do assure you that I am among the last men in the world, who would propose the measure. If you are inclined to receive him, be so good as to let me know on what terms, and the requisites to be complied with on his part. Mrs. Washington joins very cordially in compliments of congratulation to you and Mrs. Tilghman on the encrease of your family. With the usual esteem etc.⁹⁶

To ROBERT TOWNSEND HOOE

Mount Vernon, July 18, 1784.

Sir: Hearing that you have a Vessel bound to some port in Spain, I am induced to ask if it is safe and practicable to bring from thence a good Jack ass, to breed from. The late Don Juan de Miralles, resident from the Court of Spain at Philadelphia, promised to procure one for me; but in his death I met a disappointment. Another Gentleman of his Nation, not

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long since, has also given me a promise, but it is not yet fulfilled, and as I am convinced that a good Jack would be a public

96. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

benefit to this part of the Country, as well as private convenience to myself, I am desirous of having more strings than one to my bow. I do not mean however to involve any person, or thing, in difficulty, to accomplish this end.

Under this express declaration if you or your partner Mr. Harrison, could openly, fairly and upon easy terms, serve me, I should acknowledge the favor. An ordinary Jack I do not desire; I will describe therefore such an one as I must have, if I get any. He must be at least fifteen hands high; well formed; in his prime; and one whose abilities for getting Colts can be ensured; for I have been informed, that except those which are designed to breed from; and more especially such as are suffered to be exported; they very frequently have their generative parts so injured by squeezing, as to render them as unfit for the purpose of begetting Colts, as castration would, when from a superficial view no imperfection appears. Whether the latter is founded in truth, or mere report, I do not vouch for; but as I would have a good Jack or none, I am induced to mention the circumstances. I am, etc.¹

To REVEREND WALTER MAGOWAN

July 20, 1784.

D. Sir: Not knowing of whom the Vestry of Pecawaxon is composed, or that I have the honor of being acquainted with a single member of it; there would be I conceive, an impropriety in my addressing them on the subject of your application, otherwise I would with great pleasure join my recommendations of you to those of Majr. Jenifer.² If my best wishes, however, can contribute to the

1. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

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2. Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer(?).

success of your present movement, you have them very sincerely: or if my signifying, that from a long acquaintance with you, I can bear testimony to the truth of what Majr. Jenifer has advanced in your behalf, will be of any avail, I would do it with pleasure. In the meanwhile such evidence thereof as this letter affords, you are at free liberty to make use of, because I have full conviction in my own breast, that if the choice of the vestry should light on you, you would make the Parish happy. With great truth and regard, I am, etc.³

To WILLIAM SKILLING

Mount Vernon, July 22, 1784.

Wm. Skilling: I have just received your letter of the and this answer will be lodged on the road by Colo. Bassett. I cannot afford to give the wages you ask, nor can I find out the meaning of Mr. Randolphs offering you Sterlg. money, as it is altogether unusual, and little understood by workmen, and subject to misunderstanding and disputes.

Colo. Bassett is sure there must be a mistake in the case, for that you only asked him thirty pounds and two pr. of Shoes per annn., and upon informing you that he stood in no need of your services, you desired him to mention the matter to others. In consequence, he spoke to Colo. Richr. Randolph, and mentioned your terms; upon which he, (Colo. Randolph) wrote to you. How it should happen therefore that he should put in Sterling, he cannot conceive.

I am willing to allow you £30 Curry. estimating Dollars at 6/, (and other specie

3. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

in proportion), and two pr. of Shoes pr. Ann: If you incline to take it, you may come as soon as it is convenient; but whether you do, or do not incline to take it, write me word

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immediately by the post, the Stage, or some safe hand, that I may know whether to look out elsewhere or not.

You know perfectly what kind of living you will meet with here, and the advantages. I shall not therefore, enumerate them: nor shall I at this time point out the sort of work you will be employ'd in. It may be to ditch, to Garden, to level and remove Earth, to work alone, or with several others, and in the last case, to keep them closely employ'd as well as yourself. The work however will either be at the home house, or at the plantation adjoining; most probably the former. I again repeat the necessity there is for your letting me hear from you that I may know whether to look out elsewhere or not. I am, etc.⁴

To GOVERNOR BENJAMIN HARRISON

Mount Vernon, July 22, 1784.

My Dr. Sir: I have had the honor to receive your favor of the 2d. What you have asked of the Secretary at War, if obtained, is all I conceive essential to illucidate the Accounts of the old and present impositions on the public; the rolls in the pay office might serve as checks to those of the Masters; but where all these are to be met with, I know not, as the Troops of Virginia were, by order of Congress, considered as a component part of the Southern army, and part of the time mentioned in your letter to the Secretary at War, were not under my direction. I do not however consider these as very necessary, as they and the Muster rolls (which for the purpose you want them

4. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

must be sufficiently correct,) only act as checks upon each other. If however, in this, or any thing else, I can be of service to you, it will give me much pleasure to comply with your wishes.

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It was my full intention to have made you a visit so soon as the Summers heat should be over; but the situation of my fairs, and attempts to take from me, the property I have in the back Country are such, that I am oblig'd to visit the latter in September, or suffer it, after all the expence I have been put to, to pass into other hands without compensation. I am, etc.⁵

5. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

On July 23 Washington wrote a short note to Governor Harrison and also to William Fitzhugh, introducing a Mr. Prager, a European merchant. Copies of these notes are in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

To WAKELIN WELCH

Mount Vernon, July 27, 1784.

Sir: Your letter of the 26th. of Jany., and duplicate thereof, both coming by the way of James river, were long getting to hand.

I return the Power of Attorney signed before the first Master and Mariners I could find, bound for the Port of London: and trust that no further difficulty will arise to prevent your drawing the money, which had been deposited in the Bank,⁶ out of the same and placing it to my credit upon the most advantageous terms.

I have not an ounce of Tobacco growing this year, whether I shall return to that species of Agriculture again, or not, will depend altogether upon the price that article is most likely to bear from the general State of the trade, of which, you who understand the matter better than I do, can best determine; and would do me a favor to signify for my information.

Not having, that I recollect, received the particular of my Accot. currt. with your House; I should be glad to have it forwarded to me, together with that of the late Mr. Custis's, as soon as convenient. I am, etc.⁷

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6. Bank of England.

7. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

***To CLEMENT BIDDLE**

Mount Vernon, July 28, 1784.

Dear Sir: The mulatto fellow William,⁸ who has been with me all the War is attached (married he says) to one of his own colour a free woman, who, during the War was also of my family. She has been in an infirm state of health for sometime, and I had conceived that the connection between them had ceased, but I am mistaken; they are both applying to me to get her here, and tho' I never wished to see her more yet I cannot refuse his request (if it can be complied with on reasonable terms) as he has lived with me so long and followed my fortunes through the War with fidelity.

After promising thus much, I have to beg the favor of you to procure her a passage to Alexandria either by Sea, by the passage Boats (if any there be) from the head of Elk, or in the Stage as you shall think cheapest and best, and circumstances may require. She is called Margaret Thomas als. Lee (the name which he has assumed) and lives at Isaac and Hannah Sills, black people who frequently employ themselves in Cooking for families in the City of Phila. I am etc.⁹

8. William Lee (called "Billy"), the servant said to have been captured with the letters which the British published in 1776; known as the "Spurious Letters of Washington."

9. From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by Judge E. A. Armstrong, of Princeton, N.J.

On July 30 Washington gave a brief certificate of service to a Lieutenant Brown, a copy of which is in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

***To TENCH TILGHMAN**

Mount Vernon, Aug. 4, 1784.

Dear Sir: The House Joiner¹¹ you bought for me has arrived. I like his age, professions, and appearance very well and am obliged to you for procuring him. His Indentures may be sent at any time.¹² As the Season for working with Mortar will soon be over, and that of intermitrants is now approaching, I pray you unless a *very good* Bricklayer should offer, not to purchase one for me after the 15th. of this Month.

The Fan¹³ from Mr. Thos. Peters is also arrived, for which be so good as to thank him in my behalf. The handle of it is lost. Whether it did not get on board the Packet, was not delivered by the Master of it, or mislaid at Colo. Fitzgeralds is unknown as the Vessel had returned before I sent up and enquiry could be made.

Enclosed are Bank Notes for Ninety dollars, with which please to pay yourself and apply the overplus towards the payment for the Fan had of Mr. Peters. As the bill of cost did not accompany it, and my recollection of the price (if I ever heard it) has failed me, I do not know whether this Sum is sufficient for both purposes; if not the balle. shall be paid as soon as it is made known to Dr. Sir Yr. etc.

[H.S.P.]

11. By the name of Branning.

12. His indenture was for 3 years and cost £22:10:0.

13. For cleaning wheat.

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On August 4 Washington wrote to Clement Biddle that Tilghman had obtained a house joiner for him. Biddle, therefore, was to “decline purchasing either the Joiner or Bricklayer.” A copy of this letter is in the “Letter Book” in the *Washington Papers*.

To JOHN ARISS¹⁴

Mount Vernon, August 8, 1784.

Sir: In answer to your letter of the 5th., I have to inform you that I have no untenanted Lands in the Counties of Berkley or Frederick, except two lotts Nos. 5 and 6, the first containing 346½ acres, and the 2d. 224½ in the latter, which I bought at the Sale of Colo. George Mercer's Estate, in the year 1774, and for which I have had many persons applying to become Tenants. My intention was, after I had reviewed and laid these Lotts off into proper sized Tenements, to have appointed a day on the premises to let them.

If you choose to examine these Lots, and will, if either of them shou'd suit you, offer a good rent, it may (if I should not upon recollection find myself under a promise to give notice of the letting of them) supercede the necessity of this measure. I expect to be at my Brother's, on my way to the Berkeley Springs, the 2d. of next month (at night), where you may deposit a letter, which shall receive an answer from thence, to any proposals you

14. Of Berkeley County, Va.

may incline to make.

With respect to Mr. Whiting,¹⁵ I know nothing of his intentions, unless they be, as it shou'd seem, to work my Lands as long as he will be permitted without paying rent. If the nonperformance of Covenants, on the part of the Tenant, can be construed into a forfeiture of his Lease, Mr. Whiting I persuade myself will have candor enough to confess that his comes under this predicament. I am, etc.¹⁶

To JACOB READ¹⁹

Mount Vernon, August 11, 1784.

Dear Sir I return the letter you were so obliging as to send me, and thank you for the perusal of it. No copy has been taken; nor will any part of its contents transpire from me.

Altho' Mr. Ls.²⁰ informant may have the means of acquiring knowledge, and tho' it is undoubted that the British Cabinet wish to recover the United States to a dependence on that Government; yet I can scarce think they ever expect to see it realized, or that they have any plan in contemplation to try to effect it; unless *our* want of wisdom, and perseverance in error, should in their judgment render the attempt certain. The affairs of Ireland, if our accots. from thence are to be relied on, are in too turbulent a state to suffer G. B. to enter very soon into another quarrel with America, even if her finances were on a more respectable footing than I believe them to be; and her prospect of success must diminish as our population encreases, and the governments become more consistent; without the last of which, indeed, any thing may be apprehended. It is however, as ne

15. Henry Whiting.

16. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

19. Delegate to the Continental Congress from South Carolina.

20. Arthur Lee(?).

cessary for the Sovereign in Council, as it is for the general in the field, not to despise information; but to hear all, compare all, combine them with other circumstances and take measures accordingly. Nothing, I confess, would sooner induce me to give credit to a hostile intention on the part of G. B., than their continuing (without the shadow of reason, for I really see none) to withhold the Western Posts, on the American side the line, from

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us, and sending, as the Gazettes say is their intention, Sir Guy Carlton over as Viceroy, to their possessions in America, which are to undergo a new organization.

The opinion I have here given, you will readily perceive is founded upon the ideas I entertain of the temper of Ireland, the imbecility of G. B. and her internal divisions; for with pain I add, that I think our affairs are under wretched management, and that *our* conduct, if G. B. was in circumstances to take advantage of it, would bid her hope *every thing*, while other powers might expect *little* from the wisdom or exertion of these States.

I thank you for your proffered services to the Eastward. I have nothing to trouble you with, but wishing you may find the air of Rhode Island salubrious and beneficial to your Mother, I have the honor etc.²¹

21. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To TENCH TILGHMAN

Mount Vernon, August 11, 1784.

Dr. Sir: I shall essay the finishing of my green house this fall, but find that neither myself, nor any person about me is so well skilled in the internal construction as to proceed without a probability at least of running into errors.

Shall I for this reason, ask the favor of you to give me a short description of the Green-house at Mrs. Carrolls? I am persuaded, now that I planned mine upon too contracted a scale. My house is (of Brick) 40 feet by 24, in the outer dimensions, and half the width disposed of for two rooms, back of the part designed for the green house; leaving the latter in the clear not more than about 37 by 10. As there is no cover on the walls yet, I can raise them to any height, the information I wish to obtain is,

The dimensions of Mrs. Carroll's Green-house, what kind of a floor is to it, how high from that floor to the bottom of the window frame, what height the windows are from bottom

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to top, how high from the top to the ceiling of the house, whether the ceiling is flat, or of what kind. whether the heat is conveyed by flues, and a grate. whether those flues run all round the House, the size of them without, and in the clear. Whether they join the wall, or are separate and distinct from it, if the latter, how far they are apart, with any other suggestions you may conceive necessary.

I should be glad to hear from you soon on this subject, as I shall leave home on or before the first of next month, and wish to give particular directions to the workmen before I go.¹⁷
I am, etc.¹⁸

17. Tilghman answered from Baltimore (August 18). His letter, with a plan and full description of Mrs Carroll's greenhouse, is in the *Washington Papers*.

18. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

***To COMTE DE ROCHAMBEAU**

Mount Vernon, Augt. 20, 1784.

My dear Count: I thank you for your favor of the 16th. of June by the Marquis de la Fayette, who arrived here three days ago; and for your other letter of the 4th. of May which, also came safe, permit me to offer you my sincere congratulations on your appointment to the Government of Picardy. It is an honorable testimony of the approving smiles of your Prince, and a just reward for your Services and merit. Should fortune ever put it in my power to come to France, your being at Calais would be an irresistable inducement for me to make it a visit.

My letters from Philadelphia (public and private) would give you a full accot. of every matter and thing respecting the Society of the Cincinnati, and upon what footing all claims to the order were, thereafter, to be decided; to these referring, I shall save you the trouble of reading a repetition. Considering how recently the K—g of Sw—d—n has changed the

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form of the Constitution of that Country, it is not much to be wondered at that his *fears* should get the better of his *liberallity* at any thing which might have the semblance of republicanism; but considering further how few of his Nation had, or could have, a right to the Order, I think he might have suffered his complaisance to have superceded his apprehensions.²³

I will not trouble you with a long letter at this time, because I have nothing worthy of communication. Mrs. Washington who is always pleased with your remembrance of her, and glad to hear of your welfare, prays you to accept her Compliments and best wishes; mine are always sincere, and offered (tho' unknown) to Madame Rochambeau, the Viscount your Son, and any of the Officers of the Army

23. The king of Sweden had refused to permit his subjects, who were officers in the French Army, to wear the Society of the Cincinnati eagle.

you commanded in America who may be with you, and with whom I have the honor of an Acquaintance. With great esteem etc.²⁴

To CHEVALIER DE LA LUZERNE

Mount Vernon, August 20, 1784.

Sir: The letter your Excellency did me the honor to write in the moment of your departure from this Country, conferred the highest honor upon me, and is not more flattering to my vanity, than it is productive of my gratitude.

I shall ever reflect with pleasure Sir, on the readiness with which your communications to me have been made; and the dispatch and ability with which you have conducted business in the line to which I was called. And what will render these reflections more precious, is that you have accompanied them with marks of friendship and confidence which were as pleasing as they are honorable.

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When I add Sir, that you have impressed me with sentiments of sincere respect and attachment, I do not speak the language of my own heart only; it is the universal voice, and your departure will always be regretted. The only consolation left us is, that you are gone to receive the smile and approbation of a Prince, who knows full well how to distinguish, and how to reward merit.

It would give me great pleasure to make you a visit in France, to pay my respectful homage to a Sovereign to whom America is so much indebted, and to renew the friendships which I have had the honor to contract with so many respectable characters of your Nation. but I despair; my fortune has been injured by

24. From the *Rochambeau Papers* in the Library of Congress.

the war, and my private concerns are so much deranged, as to require more time to recover them than comports with the years of a man who is sliding down the stream of life as fast as I am. But whether I am in this or that Country, or wheresoever I may be, nothing will lessen the respect, or shake the attachment with which I have the honor to be Dr. Sir Yrs. etc.²²

22. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To JAMES CRANE

Mount Vernon, August 20, 1784.

Sir: The enclosed letter²⁵ which is left open for your perusal, will give you my sentiments respecting the sale of the widow Bartletts Lease, please to seal, before you send or deliver it. I shall have no objection to a transfer of the purchaser, if likely to fulfill the objects I had in view, and the conditions of the Lease are complied with. I am etc.²⁶

To CHEVALIER DE CHASTELLUX

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Mount Vernon, August 20, 1784.

My Dr. Sir: The Marqs. de la Fayette, who I had been long looking for with the eyes of friendship and impatience, arrived here on Tuesday last,²⁷ and presented me your favor of the 16th. of June. I thank you My Dr. Sir, for every testimony of your recollection of me, and every fresh assurance you give me of the continuation of your friendship is pleasing: it serves (to borrow an Indian phraze) to brighten the chain, and to convince me that you will not suffer moth or rust to injure or impair it. We talk of you often, and tho' we wish in vain to have you of our party, we do not fail to drink your health at Dinner every day. I will not give up the hope of seeing you at Mount Vernon, before I quit

25. Of August 20, to Dolphin Drew, of Berkeley County: "I wou'd next ask if you mean to build and reside on the Land you express a wish to purchase from the widow Bartlett? If you do, I should be happy in having you for a tenant, but if you intend it only for a quarter, under the management of an overseer, I must withhold my consent." A copy of this letter is in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

26. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

27. August 17.

the stage of human action, the idea wou'd be too painful. I must indulge a contrary one.

As I have no communications at this time that are worthy of *your* attention, and a house full of company to claim *mine* ; I shall, as the Ship by which I write has Spread her canvas wings, only add new assurances of what I hope you were before perfectly convinced, that I am with the greatest esteem etc.²⁸

To LOUIS LE BÈQUE DU PORTAIL

Mount Vernon, August 20, 1784.

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Dear Sir: The Marqs. de la Fayette who arrived at this place on tuesday last, gave me the pleasure of receiving your letter dated at Paris the 16th. of June, and of learning from it, that you had not relinquished the idea of visiting a Country, on whose theatre you have acted a conspicuous part. Be assured Sir, that at whatever time, and under whatever circumstances this may happen, I shall be among the first to give you a welcome reception.

Several circumstances conspired to prevent my making the tour with the Chevr. de la Luzerne, to the Great Cataract of Niagara; but that which had most weight with me, indeed which was an insurmountable objection, the British (without even the colour of pretence), holding that, and the intermediate Post of Oswego. I did not choose to make the trip upon curtesy; nor to place myself in a situation

28. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

where either a denial or any indignity might be offered in the prosecution of it.

I pray you to offer my best wishes to any of the Gentlemen of your Corps with whom I have the pleasure of an acquaintance, when you see them. Mrs. Washington thanks you for your kind remembrance of her, and begs you to accept her compliments. I am, etc.²⁹

To HUGH HUGHES

Mount Vernon, August 22, 1784.

Sir: I have received your letter of the 31st. ulto. from Philada. My memory is not charged with the particulars of the Verbal Order³⁰ which you say was delivered to you thro' Colo. Joseph Trumbull on the 27th. of Augt. 1776, "for impressing all the Sloops, boats and water craft from Spyghthen duyvel in the Hudson, to Hellgate on the sound", I recollect full well that it was a day which required the greatest exertion, particularly in the Quarter Master's Department, to accomplish the retreat which was intended, under cover of the

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succeeding night; and that no delay or ceremony could be admitted in the execution of the plan. I have no doubt therefore of your having received orders to the effect and the extent you have mentioned; and you are at liberty to adduce this letter in testimony thereof. It will I presume, supply the place of a more formal certificate, and is more consonant with my recollection of the transactions of that day.

It is with pleasure I add that your conduct in the Quarter Master's line, as far as it came under my view, or to my knowledge,

29. From the "Letter Book" copy in the Washington Papers.

30. Probably the order was given by Maj. Gen William Heath.

On August 22 Washington issued a certificate of service to Lieut. Col. Francis Mentges, the autograph of which is in the Bostonian Society, which kindly furnished a photograph of same.

was marked with activity, zeal and intelligence, and accordingly met my approbation. With grateful thanks for your good wishes, I am, etc.²⁹

To REVEREND WILLIAM SMITH

Mount Vernon, August 25, 1784.

revd. Sir: Your letter of the 10th. from Vienna,³¹ was more than ten days on its passage to me. It found me with company, and busily preparing for a journey which I am about to commence in a few days to the Westward. I did not fail however to mention the purpose of your wishes to Mr. Arele³² who was the bearer of your packet to me. He offering his services to dispose of your lottery tickets. I do not know where two or three hundred could be better placed in Alexandria, and if you will send him that number, he has promised me that his action for the sale of them shall not be wanting.

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I thank you for your printed account of Washington College.³³ My best wishes will always attend it, and I am, etc.³⁴

29. From the "Letter Book" copy in the Washington Papers.

31. Maryland.

32. John Ariss (Arele).

33. At Chester, Md.

34. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To REUBEN HARVEY³⁵

Mount Vernon, August 25, 1784.

Sir: Captain Stickney has presented me with your favor of the 25th. of May; together with the mess-beef and ox tongues, for which you will please to accept my best thanks.

I do not raise Tobacco on my Estate nor am I possessed of a pound at this time; otherwise I would with pleasure consign a few Hogsheads to your address, under full persuasion, that no person would do me more justice in the sale of them. Wheat or flour of the last year's produce, is either exported or consumed; that of the present year, is not yet got to market, what prices they will bear in this Country is not for me to say: but tho' I do not walk in the Mercantile line, except in wheat (which I manufacture into flour), I should nevertheless, thank you for any information respecting the prices of these articles. With very great esteem etc.³⁶

To THOMAS WALKER

Mount Vernon, August 25, 1784.

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Dr. Sir: In April last I wrote you a letter, of which the enclosed is a copy, having received no reply to it, nor seen any meeting of the company³⁷ summoned in the papers, I am lead to suspect it never got to hand, for this reason, and because I think a meeting of the company indispensably necessary, I have transmitted a copy. I am upon the eve of a journey as far as the Kanhawa, from whence I may not be

35. Of Cork, Ireland.

36. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

37. The Dismal Swamp Company.

returned 'till sometime in Novr., but I would not wish to have the meeting delayed on that account. I am, etc.³⁶

To REVEREND DAVID GRIFFITH

Mount Vernon, August 29, 1784.

Dr. Sir: Colo. Fitzhugh informs me that the Academy at George town is upon a good establishment, that the Gentn. at the head of it is very capable, and clever in conducting of it, that the school is in high estimation, and that the terms are £25, for board, and £6.10, for teaching, Maryland Curry. Under these circumstances, let me pray you to inform Mr. Nourse³⁹ that I think it a desirable place to fix my Nephews⁴⁰ at. Colo. Fitzhugh adds that as Mr. Balch⁴¹ is a particular friend of his, he will write to him on the subject as I should prefer having them boarded at his house to that of any other in town. I am, etc.⁴²

To DOCTOR JEAN PIERRE LEMAYEUR

August 30, 1784.

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Sir: Your letter of the 14th. accompanying the horse for little Washington⁴³ came safe. It is not in my power to describe his delight, which is the best proof of his thanks to you, he finds beauty in every

36. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

39. Joseph Nourse.

40. George Steptoe Washington and Lawrence Augustine Washington, sons of the General's brother Samuel.

41. Rev. Stephen Bloomer Balch.

42. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

43. George Washington Parke Custis.

part, and tho' shy at first, he begins now to ride with a degree of boldness in which will soon do honor to his horsemanship.

Mrs. Washington and all the family joins me in best wishes for you. Mrs. Lund Washington has added a daughter to her family. Miss Bassett is on a visit to her friends in the lower parts of the State, and I shall set off tomorrow on a tour to the Western Country. I shall always be happy to hear from you, and only wish for opportunities to make you amends for the attention you have shewn me. This letter will be handed to you by the Marqs. de la Fayette to whom I have mentioned you as one to whom I am under obligations. I am, etc.⁴⁴

To STEPHEN SAYRE⁴⁵

Mount Vernon, September 1, 1784.

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Sir: The round of company in which I have constantly been, and other circumstances since I had the honor to receive your favor of the 20th. ulto., induced me (indeed obliged me) to postpone from day to day, my answer, until the period has now arrived when I can do no more than give it a bare acknowledgment, being in the very act of setting out for the Western Country. I could not depart however without thanking you for the sentiments you have conveyed respecting the mode for extending the inland navigation of Potomac.⁴⁶ I have not time to be explicit in giving you mine, it shall be the subject of conversation when I return; in the mean while it would give me pleasure to hear that you are disposed to submit your plan to the public. My wish is that the public should be possessed of every scheme that has a

44. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

45. Of Georgetown, Md.

46. Sayre's letter of August 20, proposing a scheme of financing the navigation of the Potomac, is in the *Washington Papers*.

promising tendency, that [it] may adopt the best, after a just comparison of them. the period is arrived when something ought, and I presume will be undertaken. I am, etc.⁴⁷

To DANIEL MORGAN

September 4, 1784.⁴⁸

Dr. Sir: Colo. Kennedy⁴⁹ has owed me £28, these many years. Enquiring yesterday where he lived, and into his circumstances, I was told that he had lately sold land or houses in Winchester, to you; and that it might be in your power to obtain the balance which appears upon the enclosed accot. due to me. If this should be the case, you would very much oblige me, as the money has been long due and I have always found it very difficult to get any from him. I am, etc.⁴⁷

To EDWARD SNICKERS

Berkeley, September 4, 1784.

Dr. Sir: Several persons have been with me this day to rent the Land I bought at the sale of Colo. George Mercer's Estate; but I find it is essential that some one, or more of them, should engage for the whole rent; or, that I should delay renting it until the Land can be divided to the best

47. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

From Washington's "Diary," under date of Sept. 1, 1784, is the following: "Having dispatched my equipage about 9 O'clock A. M.; consisting of 3 Servants and 6 horses, three of which carried my Baggage, I set out myself in company with Doctor James Craik."

48. Washington was at Charles Washington's on this date.

49. David Kennedy.

advantage, so as that each Lot may have water, and a proportionate quantity of good Land. for these reasons I mean to avail myself of the kind offer you made me yesterday, of letting the two Lots (I bought as above) to the best advantage on my behalf.

Enclos'd is a plan of the Land wch. may be some guide for you. I have told Williams who is a liver on one of the lots, that I have no objection to his having an hundred acres or more, provided he will give as much as another, and the laying it off does not hurt the other part. As to the rents, I suppose the same which Mr. Burwell has, must govern, to wit, ten pounds and the Taxes, for each 100 acres, in other respects, my printed leases, one of which I enclose you, are to be shewn to the Tenants, and must be *your* rule and *their* terms; I do not mean to give Leases for lives; indeed I do not incline to exceed ten years: but if it shou'd be thought by the tenants, and this should be your opinion also, that ten

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years is too short to make the buildings and other improvements which are required by the printed copy⁵⁰ I send you, I would lengthen them to 14 years.

There is one thing I think it necessary to caution you upon: my object being to have my Lands improved by an industrious class of reputable people, I would not lease any of them to persons who do not mean to reside thereon; or to those who have lands adjoining, because in either case I should expect to have my land hard worked (perhaps totally ruined), without those aids or improvements which are to be expected from residents, whose convenience and comfort would call for many things, which never would be furnished negro Quarters.

After you have done the needful, and hear of my return home, I shall thank you for information respecting this business. I am, etc.⁵¹

50. A printed form of a lease which was used by Washington before the Revolution is in the *Washington Papers*.

51. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

Washington left Bath September 8, and reached Simpson's September 13.

CERTIFICATE TO JAMES RUMSEY

Town of Bath, County of Berkeley in the State of Virginia, September 7, 1784.

I have seen the model of Mr. Rumsey's Boats constructed to work against stream; have examined the power upon which it acts; have been an eye witness to an actual experiment in running water of some rapidity; and do give it as my opinion (altho' I had little faith before) that he has discovered the Art of propelling Boats, by mechanism and small manual assistance, against rapid currents: that the discovery is of vast importance, may be of the greatest usefulness in our inland navigation, and, if it succeeds, of which I have

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no doubt, that the value of it is greatly enhanced by the simplicity of the works which when seen and explained to, might be executed by the most common Mechanics.⁵¹

To GOVERNOR BENJAMIN HARRISON

Mount Vernon, October 10, 1784.⁵⁴

Dear Sir: Upon my return from the western Country a few days ago, I had the pleasure to receive your favor of the 17th. ulto. It has always been my intention to pay my respects to you before the chance of *another* early and hard winter should make a warm fireside too comfortable to be relinquished. And I shall

51. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

Washington left Bath September 8, and reached Simpson's September 13.

54. Washington reached Mount Vernon in the afternoon of October 4.

feel an additional pleasure in offering this tribute of friendship and respect to you, by having the company of the Marqs. de la Fayette, when he shall have revisited this place from his Eastern tour; now every day to be expected.

I shall take the liberty now, my dear sir, to suggest a matter, which would (if I am not too shortsighted a politician) mark your administration as an important era in the Annals of this Country, if it should be recommended by you, and adopted by the Assembly.

It has been long my decided opinion that the shortest, easiest, and least expensive communication with the invaluable and extensive Country back of us, would be by one, or both of the rivers of this State which have their sources in the Apalachian mountains. Nor am I singular in this opinion. Evans, in his Map and Analysis of the middle Colonies which (considering the early period at which they were given to the public) are done with amazing exactness. And Hutchins since, in his topographical description of the

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Western Country, (a good part of which is from actual surveys), are decidedly of the same sentiments; as indeed are all others who have had opportunities, and have been at the pains to investigate and consider the subject.

But that this may not now stand as mere matter of opinion or assertion, unsupported by facts (such at least as the best maps now extant, compared with the oral testimony, which my opportunities in the course of the war have enabled me to obtain); I shall give you the different routs and distances from Detroit.⁵⁵ by which all the trade of the North Western parts of the United territory, must pass; unless the Spaniards, contrary to their present policy, should engage part of it; or the British should attempt to force nature by carrying the trade of the upper Lakes by the river Outawaies into Canada, which I scarcely think

55. Washington inclosed, in this letter to Harrison, a copy of the table of distances from Detroit, which is entered in his diary under Oct. 4, 1784. Some of the running text of that day's diary entry is incorporated in this letter verbatim and in the general sense.

they will or could effect. Taking Detroit then (which is putting ourselves in as unfavourable a point of view as we can be well placed, because it is upon the line of the British territory) as a point by which, as I have already observed, all that part of the trade must come, it appears from the statement enclosed, that the tide waters of this State are nearer to it by 168 miles than that of the river St. Lawrence; or than that of the Hudson at Albany by 176 miles.

Maryland stands upon similar ground with Virginia. Pennsylvania altho' the Susquehanna is an unfriendly water, much impeded it is said with rocks and rapids, and nowhere communicating with those which lead to her capital; has it in contemplation to open a communication between Toby's Creek (which empties into the Alleghany river, 95 miles above Fort Pitt) and the west branch of Susquehanna; and to cut a canal between the waters of the latter, and the Schuylkill; the expence of which is easier to be conceived than estimated or described by me. A people however, who are possessed of the spirit of

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commerce, who see, and who will pursue their advantages, may achieve almost anything. In the mean time, under the uncertainty of these undertakings, they are smoothing the roads and paving the ways for the trade of that western World. That New York will do the same so soon as the British Garrisons are removed, which are at present, insurmountable obstacles in *their* way, no person who knows the temper, genius, and policy of those people as well as I do, can harbour the smallest doubt.

Thus much with respect to rival States; let me now take a short

view of our own; and being aware of the objections which are in the way, I will enumerate, in order to contrast them with the advantages.

The first and principal one is, the *unfortunate Jealousy* , which ever has and it is to be feared ever will prevail, lest one part of the State should obtain an advantage over the other part (as if the benefits of trade were not diffusive and beneficial to all); then follow a train of difficulties viz: that our people are already heavily taxed; that we have no money; that the advantages of this trade are remote that the most *direct* rout for it is thro' *other* States, over whom we have no controul; that the routs over which we have controul, are as distant as either of those which lead to Philadelphia, Albany or Montreal; That a sufficient spirit of commerce does not pervade the citizens of this commonwealth; that we are in fact doing for others, what they ought to do for themselves.

Without going into the investigation of a question, which has employed the pens of able politicians, namely, whether trade with Foreigners is an advantage or disadvantage to a country. This State as a part of the confederated States (all of whom have the spirit of it very strongly working within them) must adopt it, or submit to the evils arising therefrom without receiving its benefits; common policy therefore points clearly and strongly, to the propriety of our enjoying all the advantages which nature and our local situation afford us; and evinces clearly that unless this spirit could be totally eradicated in other States, as well as in this, and every man made to become either a cultivator of the Land, or a

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manufacturer of such articles as are prompted by necessity, such stimulus should be employed as will *force* this spirit; by shewing to our Countrymen the superior advantages we possess beyond others; and the

importance of being upon a footing with our Neighbours.

If this is fair reasoning, it ought to follow as a consequence, that we should do our part towards opening the communication with the fur and peltry trade of the Lakes; and for the produce of the Country which lies within; and which will, so soon as matters are settled with the Indians, and the terms on which Congress means to dispose of the Land, and found to be favourable, are announced, settle faster than any other ever did, or any one would imagine. This then when considered in an interested point of view, is alone sufficient to excite our endeavours; but in my opinion, there is a political consideration for so doing, which is of still greater importance.

I need not remark to you Sir, that the flanks and rear of the United States are possessed by other powers, and formidable ones too; nor how necessary it is to apply the cement of interest, to bind all parts of the Union together by indissoluble bonds, especially that part of it, which lies immediately west of us, with the middle States. For, what ties, let me ask, shou'd we have upon those people? How entirely unconnected with them shall we be, and what troubles may we not apprehend, if the Spaniards on their right, and Gt. Britain on their left, instead of throwing stumbling blocks in their way as they now do, should hold out lures for their trade and alliance. What, when they get strength, which will be sooner than most people conceive (from the emigration of foreigners who will have no particular predilection towards us, as well as from the removal of our own citizens) will be

the consequence of their having formed close connexions with both, or either of those powers in a commercial way? It needs not, in my opinion, the gift of prophecy to foretell.

The Western settlers, (I speak now from my own observation) stand as it were upon a pivot; the touch of a feather, would turn them any way. They have look'd down the

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Mississippi, until the Spaniards (very impolitically I think, for themselves) threw difficulties in their way; and they looked that way for no other reason, than because they could glide gently down the stream; without considering perhaps, the fatigues of the voyage back again, and the time necessary to perform it in; and because they have no other means of coming to us but by a long Land transportation and unimproved roads. These causes have hitherto checked the industry of the present settlers; for except the demand for provisions, occasioned by the increase of population, and a little flour which the necessities of Spaniards compel them to buy, they have no incitements to labour. But smooth the road once, and make easy the way for them, and then see what an influx of articles will be poured upon us; how amazingly our exports will be encreased by them, and how amply we shall be compensated for any trouble and expence we may encounter to effect it.

A combination of circumstances makes the present conjuncture more favourable for Virginia, than for any other State in the Union, to fix these matters. The jealous and untoward disposition of the Spaniards on one hand, and the private views of some individuals, coinciding with the general policy of the Court of Great Britain, on the other, to retain as long as possible the Posts of Detroit, Niagara, and Oswega &c. (which, tho' done under the letter of the Treaty, is certainly an infraction of the spirit of it, and injurious to the Union) may be improved to the greatest advantage by this State; if she

would open the avenues to the trade of that Country, and embrace the present moment to establish it. It only wants a beginning; the Western Inhabitants wou'd do their part towards its execution. weak as they are, they would meet us at least half way, rather than be *driven* into the arms of, or be made dependant upon foreigners; which would, eventually, either bring on a separation of them from us, or a war between the United States and one or the other of those powers, most probably with the Spaniards.

The preliminary steps to the attainment of this great object, would be attended with very little expence, and might, at the same time that it served to attract the attention of the Western Country, and to convince the wavering Inhabitants thereof of our disposition to

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connect ourselves with them, and to facilitate their commerce with us, would be a mean of removing those jealousies which otherwise might take place among ourselves.

These, in my opinion are; to appoint Commissioners, who from their situation, integrity and abilities, can be under no suspicion of prejudice or predilection to one part more than to another. Let these Commissioners make an actual survey of James river and Potomack from tide-water to their respective sources. Note with great accuracy the kind of navigation, and the obstructions in it; the difficulty and expence attending the removal of these obstructions; the distances from place to place thro' the whole extent; and the nearest and best Portages between these waters and the Streams capable of improvement which run into the Ohio; traverse these in like manner to *their* junction with

the Ohio, and with equal accuracy. The navigation of this river (i.e., the Ohio) being well known, they will have less to do in the examination of it; but nevertheless, let the courses and distances of it be taken to the mouth of the Muskingum, and up that river (notwithstanding it is in the ceded lands) to the carrying place with Cayahoga; down the Cayahoga to Lake Erie, and thence to Detroit. Let them do the same with big Bever creek, although part of it is in the State of Pennsylvania; and with the Scioto also. In a word, let the Waters East and West of the Ohio, which invite our notice by their proximity, and the ease with which Land transportation may be had between them and the Lakes on one side, and the rivers Potomac and James on the other, be explored, accurately delineated, and a correct and connected Map of the whole be presented to the public. These things being done, I shall be mistaken if prejudice does not yield to facts; jealousy to candour, and finally, that reason and nature thus aided, will dictate what is right and proper to be done.

In the mean while, if it should be thought that the lapse of time which is necessary to effect this work, may be attended with injurious consequences, could not there be a sum of money granted towards opening *the best* , or if it should be deemed *more eligible* , two of the nearest communications, one to the Northward and another to the Southward,

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with the settlements to the westward? And an act be passed (if there should not appear a manifest disposition in the Assembly to make it a public undertaking) to incorporate, and encourage private Adventurers if any should associate and solicit the same, for the purpose of extending the navigation of Potomac or James river? And, in the former case, to request the concurrence of Maryland in the measure. It will appear from my statement of the different routs (and as far as my means of information have extended, I have done it with the

utmost candour), that all the produce of the settlements about Fort Pitt can be brought to Alexandria by the Yohoghancy in 304 Miles; whereof only 31 is land transportation: And by the Monongahela and Cheat river in 300 miles; 20 only of which are land carriage. Whereas the common road from Fort Pitt to Philadelphia is 320 miles, all Land transportation; or 476 miles, if the Ohio, Toby's Creek, Susquehanna and Schuylkill are made use of for this purpose: how much of this is by land, I know not; but from the nature of the Country it must be very considerable. How much the interests and feelings of people thus circumstanced would be engaged to promote it, requires no illustration.

For my own part, I think it highly probable, that upon the strictest scrutiny (if the Falls of the Great Kanhawa can be made navigable, or a short portage be had there), it will be found of equal importance and convenience to improve the navigation of both the James and Potomac. The latter I am fully persuaded, affords the nearest communication with the Lakes; but James river may be more convenient for all the settlers below the mouth of the Gt. Kanhawa, and for some distance perhaps above, and west of it: for I have no expectation that any part of the trade *above* the falls of the Ohio will go down that river and the Mississippi, much less that the returns will ever come up them; unless our want of foresight and good management is the occasion of it. Or upon trial, if it should be found that these rivers, from the beforementioned Falls, will admit the descent of Sea vessels; in which case, and the navigation of the former's becoming free, it is probable that both vessels and the cargoes will be

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carried to foreign markets and sold; but the returns for them will never in the natural course of things, ascend the long and rapid current of that river; which with the Ohio to the Falls, in their meanderings, is little if any short of 2000 miles. Upon the whole, the object, in my estimation is of vast commercial and political importance: in these lights I think posterity will consider it, and regret (if our conduct should give them cause) that the present favourable moment to secure so great a blessing for them, was neglected.

One thing more remains, which I had like to have forgot, and that is the supposed difficulty of obtaining a passage thro' the State of Pennsylvania. How an application to its Legislature would be relished, in the first instance, I will not undertake to decide; but of one thing I am almost certain, such an application would place that body in a very delicate situation. There is in the State of Pennsylvania at least 100,000 souls west of the Laurel hill, who are groaning under the inconveniences of a long land transportation; they are wishing, indeed they are looking for the improvement and extension of inland navigation; and if this cannot be made easy for them, to Philadelphia (at any rate it must be lengthy), they will seek a mart elsewhere; the consequence of which would be, that the State, tho' contrary to the policy and interests of its Sea-ports, must submit to the loss of so much of its trade, or hazard not only the trade but the loss of the Settlement also; for an opposition on the part of Government to the extension of water transportation, so consonant with the essential interests of a large body of people, or any extraordinary impositions upon the exports or imports to, or from another State, would ultimately bring on a separation between its Eastern and Western Settlements; towards which, there is not wanting a disposition at this moment in that part of it, which is beyond the mountains.

I consider Rumsey's discovery for working Boats against stream, by mechanical powers (principally) as not only a very fortunate invention for these States in general, but as one of those circumstances which have combined to render the present epocha favourable above all others for fixing, if we are disposed to avail ourselves of them, a large portion of the trade of the Western Country in the bosom of this State irrevocably.

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Lengthy as this letter is, I intended to have written a fuller and more digested one, upon this important subject, but have met with so many interruptions since my return home, as almost to have precluded my writing at all. What I now give is crude; but if you are in sentiment with me, I have said enough; if there is not an accordance of opinion I have said too much and all I pray in the latter case is, that you will do me the justice to believe my motives are pure, however erroneous my judgment may be on this matter, and that I am with the most perfect esteem etc.⁵⁶

56. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

Governor Harrison laid Washington's letter before the Virginia Assembly, and when Washington went to Richmond the middle of November to meet Lafayette the matter was discussed informally, and shortly thereafter a memorial from interested private citizens was sent to both the Virginia and Maryland Legislatures, praying an act of incorporation for a company. A committee of citizens consisted of Washington, Horatio Gates, and Thomas Blackburn was formed. From Richmond, Washington and Gates went to Annapolis, where Gates fell ill, and the entire matter rested on Washington. Through his exertions a bill was pushed through the Maryland Legislature, and sent to the Virginia Legislature, where a corresponding act was passed before the end of the session. The incorporation of the Potomac Navigation Co. thus became a fact. The Virginia Legislature also passed an act for incorporating the James River Co. The Virginia treasurer was directed to subscribe to 50 shares in the James River Co. and 100 shares in the Potomac River Co., which should be vested in George Washington and his heirs, the idea being to relieve Washington of the strain on his finances which the purchase of shares in these companies would involve. (See Madison's letter to Thomas Jefferson, Jan. 9, 1785, in *Hunt's Writings of Madison*, vol. 2, p. 102.)

To MISS SIDNEY LEE

Mount Vernon, October 20, 1784.

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Madam: The letter you did me the honor to write to me on the 23d. of May last, came to my hands in the moment of my departure for our Western territory. Knowing that I should be in the walks of Mr. White, and intending if I did not see him, to write to him on the subject of your letter; I thought it best to decline giving you any trouble until one of those events should have happened.

Fortunately, I saw Mr. White, who informed me that altho' appearances were against him he had not been unmindful, either of your commands, or his own promises; for tho' it was to give a precise account of the trust reposed in him, he has

nevertheless done it some little time previous to my application; and would leave nothing unattempted to settle the whole in the best manner he was able, and circumstances would admit. He marked the parts of your letter to me which required his attention, and promised me that he would address you on the subject of them, in a very little time. For the favourable wishes you have been pleased to bestow on this young Country, and for the flattering sentiments you have expressed for me, my grateful acknowledgments are due. I have the honor, etc.⁵⁸

58. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To GEORGE PLATER

Mount Vernon, October 25, 1784.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 20th. did not reach me until yesterday afternoon. I am now set down to acknowledge it, and shall be happy, if from any information I can give, *you* should derive satisfaction, or the *public* benefit.

To describe the usefulness of water transportation, would be a mere waste of time; every man who has considered the difference of expence between it and land transportation, and the prodigious saving in the article of draft cattle, requires no arguments in proof of it:

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and to point out the advantages which the back inhabitants of Virginia and Maryland would derive from an extension of the inland navigation of the river Potomac, even supposing our views did not extend beyond the Apalachian mountains, would be equally nugatory.

But I consider this business in a far more extensive point of view, and the more I have revolved the subject, the more important it appears to me; not only as it respects our commerce, but our political interests, and the well being, and strength of the union also.

It has been long my decided opinion...59

59. The omitted portion is the same, verbatim, except in inconsequential verbal details, as Washington's letter to Gov. Benjamin Harrison, Oct. 10, 1784, *q. v.*

harbour the smallest doubt, any more than they will of the difficulty of diverting trade, after connexions are once formed, and it has flowed for any length of time in one channel, to that of another.

I am not for *discouraging* the exertion of any State to draw the commerce of the Western Country to its sea ports, the more communications are opened to it, the closer we bind that rising world (for indeed it may be so called) to our interests, and the greater strength shall we acquire by it: those to whom nature affords the best communication, will, if they are wise and politic enjoy the greatest share of the trade. All I wou'd be understood to mean therefore is, that the gifts of providence may not be neglected or slighted: and these when considered on a commercial scale, are alone sufficient to excite one endeavours, but the political object of it, in my estimation is immense.

I need not remark to you Sir, that the flanks and rear ...60

60. The omitted portion is the same, verbatim, as in Washington's letter to Gov. Benjamin Harrison, Oct. 10, 1784, *q. v.*

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or to be dependent upon foreigners; the consequence of which would be, a separation or a war. The way to avoid both, fortunately for us, is to do that which our most essential interest prompts us to, and which, at a very small comparative expence, is to be effected. I mean, to open a wide door to their commerce, and make the communication [as easy as possible for them to use it.

This, in my judgment, would dry up the other sources, or if any part should flow down the Mississippi from the Falls of Ohio, by means of Vessels built for the sea, and sold with their Cargoes, the returns for them, I conceive, would go back this way.

I consider Rumseys discovery for working Boats against stream, by mechanical powers principally, as not only a very fortunate invention for these States in general, but as one of those circumstances which have combined to render the present epocha favorable above all others, for fixing, if we are disposed to avail ourselves of them, a large portion of the Peltry and Fur trade of the lakes, and the commerce within,

irrecoverably, from these two states.

Lengthy as this letter is, I might have enlarged, but company prevents me. If there are any ideas in it which may be improved upon, I shall feel happy in having obeyed your commands. if there are not, your request must be my apology for having troubled you with these observations. My best respects, in which Mrs. Washington joins me, are tendered to Mrs. Plater and I am, etc.][61

To REVEREND STEPHEN BLOOMER BALCH

October 30, 1784.

Sir: If you will *now* , or at any other time, furnish me with an account of the expences which have been incurred for schooling, boarding and clothing of my Nephews, I will transmit you

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the money. Such of the latter as are proper for them, I hope will be obtained on the best terms, as the cost of them shall be regularly paid.

I think it would be very proper to have them taught the French language and such parts of the Mathematic's as will bring them acquainted with practical Surveying, which is useful to every man who has landed property. As they are fatherless and motherless children, I commit them to your benevolent care and protection. I am, etc.⁶²

61. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*. The portion in brackets is taken from a facsimile in a sales catalogue of 1929.

62. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

***To JACOB READ**

Mount Vernon, November 3, 1784.

Sir: The last Post gave me the honor of your letter of the 22d. Ulto. from New York and the little Tract which it enclosed. for both, you have my thanks.

My tour to the Westward, was less extensive than I intended. The Indians, it was said, were in too discontented a mood, for me to expose myself to their insults; as I had no object in contemplation which could justify any risk; my property in that Country having, previously, undergone every species of attack and diminution, that the nature of it would admit. To see the condition of my Lands which were nearest, and settled, and to dispose of those which were more remote, and unsettled, was all I had in view. The first I accomplished. The other I could not; and returned three weeks sooner than I expected.

You are pleased, my good Sir, to request that I would furnish you with such observations as I might have made in this tour, respecting "the Western Territory, Posts, or in general on Indian Affairs." with respect to the first and last, I had abundant reason to convince me, that the predictions of a letter, which I wrote on the 7th. of Septr. 1783 to a Committee

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of Congress, (at their request) in part, are already verified, and that the rest, if the treaty which is now depending with the Indians, does not avert them, are upon the point of being so. And with respect to the Posts, two other letters of mine, the first on the 2d. of May last year, the other of the 8th. of Septr. following, addressed (by desire) to the Committee appointed to form a Peace establishment for the Union, contain my Sentiments on that Subject; fully, and clearly.

As these letters were addressed to Committees, at their own request, 'tis possible the members *only* of them, may have seen them; this must be my apology therefore for the

63. The "Letter Book" copy has "saw and heard enough while I was in that Country."

reference, instead of a recital.

What may be the result of the Indian Treaty I pretend not to say; equally unacquainted am I with the Instructions, or Powers of the Commissioners; but if a large cession of territory is expected from them, a disappointment i think will ensue; for the Indians, I have been told, will not yield to the proposal. Nor can I see wherein lyes the advantages of it, if they would, at a first purchase, unless a *number* of States, tho' thinly Inhabited, would be more than a counterpoize in the *political* Scale, for progressive and compact settlements.

Such is the rage for speculating in, and forestalling of Lands on the No. West side of the Ohio, that scarce a valuable spot within any tolerable distance of it, is left without a claimant. Men in these times, talk with as much facility of fifty, a hundred, and even 500,000 Acres as a Gentleman formerly would do of 1000 acres. In defiance of the proclamation of Congress, they roam over the Country on the Indian side of the Ohio, mark out Lands, Survey, and even settle them. This gives great discontent to the Indians, and will unless measures are taken in time to prevent it, inevitably produce a war with the western Tribes.

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To avoid which, there appears to me to be only these ways. Purchase, if possible, as much Land of them immediately back of us, as would make one or two States, according to the extent Congress design, or would wish to have them of; and which may be fully adequate to all our present *purposes*. Fix such a price upon the Lands, so purchased, as would not be too exorbitant and burthensome for real occupiers, but high enough to discourage monopolizers. Declare all steps, heretofore taken to procure Lands on the

No. Wt. side of the Ohio, contrary to the prohibition of Congress, to be null and void. and that any person thereafter, who shall presume to mark, Survey, or settle Lands beyond the limits of the New States, and purchased Lands, shall not only be considered as outlaws, but fit subjects for Indian vengeance.

If these, or similar measures are adopted, I have no doubt of Congress's deriving a very considerable revenue from the Western territory; but Land, like other commodities, rise or fall in proportion to the quantity at market. consequently a higher price may be obtained by the Acre, for as much as will constitute one or two States, than can be had if ten States were offered for Sale at the sametime, besides extending the benefits, and deriving all the advantages of Law and Government from them at once; neither of which can be done in sparse Settlements, where nothing is thought of but scrambling for Land, which more than probably would involve confusion and bloodshed.

It is much to be regretted, that the slow determinations of Congress involve many evils. It is much easier to avoid mischiefs, than to apply remedies after they have happened. Had Congress paid an earlier attention to, or decided sooner on Indian Affairs, matters would have been in a more favorable train than they now are, and if they are longer delayed, they will grow worse. Twelve months ago the Indians would have listened to propositions of *any kind* with more readiness than they will do now. The terms of Peace frightened them, and they were disgusted with Great Britn. for making such. Bribery, and every address which

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British art could devise have been practiced since to sooth them, to astrange them from us, and to secure their Trade.

To what other causes can be abscribed, their holding our Western Posts so long, after the ratification of the Treaty, contrary to the spirit, tho they do it under the letter of it. To remove their

Garrisons and Stores is not the work of a week; for if report be true, they have only to shift them to the opposite side of the line. but it is now more than a year since I foretold what has happened; and I shall not be surprized if they leave us no Posts to occupy; for if they *mean* to surrender them *at all* , they may fix upon a *season* , or appoint a *short* day perhaps for the evacuation, which would preclude all relief, especially as I believe you are in no condition to possess them. To do it properly, requires time; ordnance, stores, Provisions, and other Articles, no more than Garrisons, are to be established in a moment; even where Boats and other conveniences (of which I dare say you are deficient) are at hand to transplant them. Supposing this to be the case, their will be an interregnum, during which the works will be left without guards, and being obnoxious to British policy, and Indian prejudices, will, by *accidental* fires, or Indian Drunkenness end in conflagration.

There is a matter which tho' it does not come before Congress wholly, is in my opinion, of great political importance, and ought to be attended to in time. It is to prevent the trade of the Western territory from settling in the hands, either of the Spaniards or British. if either of these happen, there is a line of seperation at once drawn between the Eastern and Western Country. The consequences of which may be fatal. To tell any man of information, how fast the latter is settling; how much more rapidly it will

settle, by means of foreign emigrants, who can have no particular predeliction for us; of the vast fertility of the Soil, and population the Country is competent to, would be futile. and equally nugatory to observe that it is by the cement of interest only, we can be held together. If then the trade of that Country should flow through the Mississippi or St.

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Lawrence. If the Inhabitants thereof should form commercial connexions, which lead, we know, to intercourse of other kinds, they would in a few years be as unconnected with us, indeed more so, than we are with South America; and wd. soon be alienated from us.

It may be asked how we are to prevent this? Happily for us the way is plain, and our *immediate* interests, as well as remote political advantages, points to it; whilst a combination of circumstances renders the present Epocha more favorable than any other, to accomplish them. Extend the inland navigation of the Eastern waters, communicate them as near as possible (by excellent Roads) with those which run to the westward. open these to the Ohio, and such others as extend from the Ohio towards Lake Erie; and we shall not only draw the produce of the western Settlers, but the Fur and peltry trade of the lakes also, to our Ports (being the nearest, and easiest of transportation) to the amazing encrease of our Exports, while we bind those people to us by a chain which never can be broken.

This is no Utopean Scheme, it can be demonstrated as fully as facts can ascertain any thing, that not only the produce of the Ohio and its waters, at least to the falls, but those of the lakes also, as far even as that of the Wood,⁶⁴ may be brought to the Sea Ports in the United States by routs shorter, easier, and less expensive than they can be carried to Montreal or New Orleans; if we would be at a little trouble and expence to open them. I will acknowledge that the most essential part of this business comes more properly before individual States

64. Lake of the Woods.

than the Union; but there is one part of it, which lyes altogether with the latter and that is, to have actual Surveys of the Western territory; more especially of the Rivers which empty into the Ohio on the North west side thereof, which have the easiest and best communications with Lake Erie. Reporting the nature of these waters; the practicability of their navigation, and expence in opening of them. This, in my opinion, is an important

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business, and admits of no delay; it would shew the value of these Lands more clearly; it would attract the attention of the Settlers and the Traders; it would give the Ton, and fix ideas that at present are as floating as chaos.

You see Sir I have obeyed your commands; my sentiments are delivered with freedom; the worst construction they will admit of, is, that they are errors of judgment; for sure I am, I have no private views that can be promoted by the adoption of them. Mrs. Washington thanks you for your polite remembrance of her, and joins me in best respects. I am etc.⁶⁵

To REVEREND WILLIAM GORDON

Mount Vernon, November 3, 1784.

Dear Sir: The last post brought me your favor of the 18th. ulto., and gave me the pleasure to hear you were well.

My return from our Western territory was sooner than I expected when I left home. The Indians from

65. From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by George A. Ball, of Muncie, Ind.

accounts were in too discontented a mood to have rendered an interview with them agreeable, if chance should have thrown us together. I therefore returned from the Neighbourhood of Fort Pitt, where I found part of my property (Lands) in possession of others, and myself under the necessity of bringing ejectments for the recovery of it. To that which was more remote I did not go, for the reason above. Another year, and I may find it in like predicament. But as the *Land* cannot be removed, I did not think any attempts which might be made in the meanwhile, sufficient inducement to expose myself to the insults of Savages; and having no other objects in view, I returned three weeks sooner than I expected when I set out on the tour.

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In my absence I had a very sickly family, but no deaths. Mrs. Washington has been very unwell, Miss Custis very ill, and your friend *Tub* 67 a good deal reduced by a diarrhea, he has got perfectly well, and is as fat and saucy as ever. Mrs. Washington is pretty well recovered, but Miss Custis remains in a puny state. the family unite in best wishes for you, and I am, etc.⁶⁸

To BATTAILE MUSE

Mount Vernon, November 3, 1784.

Sir: Your letter of the 12th. of Septemr. only came to my hands a few days ago. You can best tell how far the collection of my rents in Berkeley, Frederick, Fauquier and Loudoun, would interfere with the business you have to execute for Colo. Fairfax. If it can be made to comport with his, and the Gentleman who employed you to look after it would signify as much I should be very willing to commit my smaller

67. George Washington Parke Custis(?)

68. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

matters to your care: and would then, as soon as it should be in my power, transmit you a rental of the sums (as far as I can ascertain them) which are due. At any rate, as Mr. Whiting is about to quit the Tenement he holds of me; as he is a good deal in arrears of rent; as common fame not only denotes him a bad manager, but one who is very much involved; which may occasion me a good deal of trouble if not loss, if his effects are suffered to be removed before the sum he owes me is secured: I have to request that you will cause distress to be made before this event takes place, unless he will give indubitable security for the payment of it in six months. You will readily perceive by this, that my meaning on the one hand is, not to lose the hold which the law has given me of his property on the premises, unless he will secure me in some other manner. And on the

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other hand not to distress him beyond what prudence and that security which I have a right to may absolutely require.

Enclosed you have a statemt. of the Accots. with him. On the 25th. day of December next another rent will become due; the security of which is equally necessary with that which is now due. I am, etc.⁶⁶

66. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To ROBERT ANDERSON

Mount Vernon, November 3, 1784.

Sir: Your letter of the 15th. of Octor. is at hand, and is the first I have ever received from you. Persons as well acquainted with Husbandry, in its various branches, as you profess yourself to be, and have credentials of, must no doubt be an acquisition to any Country, and meet with encouragement in this. I should be glad to employ a Man who has a perfect knowledge of Agriculture, skilled in the rotation of crops; and who understands feeding horses, Cattle, sheep &c. But before I would be under any legal, or honorary engagement, or put you to the trouble or expence of coming this way, I should be glad to know precisely your terms, wages &c. To which I wou'd give you an answer by the return of the Post. It may not be amiss to inform you, that it is a head or Director only I want; hands I could furnish from my own Estate to occupy any farm I have unengaged at present. I am, etc.⁶⁹

To ELIAS BOUDINOT

Mount Vernon, November 3, 1784.

Dr. Sir: Mrs. Washington and I have heard with great pleasure of Miss Boudinot's restoration to health, and change of condition; on both which events we join in sincere compliments of congratulations to you, Mrs. Boudinot and the young couple.

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Will you permit me my good Sir, to request the favor of you (if it should not be attended with inconvenience) to purchase as much

69. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

of the Orchard grass seed for me, as will sow about ten acres of Land, and forward it by any Vessel which may be coming from New York to Alexandria, or if opportunities from thence are rare, to Colo. Biddle in Philadelphia, with a request to forward it to me without delay, that I may be certain of getting it for early seeding in the Spring. You would add to the favor if the Seed should be accompanied by the direction of a good farmer, with respect to the quantity which should be given to an Acre, and the manner of sowing it. I will remit the price of the Seed with thanks, so soon as you shall inform me of the cost of it.

You were so obliging some years ago as to furnish me with a little of this seed, but like most other things which belonged to me it was neglected. I want to try it now under my own management. With very great esteem and regard, I am, etc.⁷⁰

To CLEMENT BIDDLE

Mount Vernon, November 3, 1784.

Dear Sir: I have not yet received a statement of my Account with you. It would give me pleasure to have it at full length, and soon; I wish you would add to it, 100 lbs. of fresh and good (red) Clover seed, to be sent by the first vessel to Alexandria; as I should be to receive it before Ice may impede the navigation of this river or the Delaware.

I requested the favor of

70. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

Mr. Boudinot to send me as much of the Orchard grass seed, as would sow ten acres, and if no opportunity should offer immediately from New York to Alexandria, to address it to

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your care. should the latter be the case, I pray you to forward it by the first conveyance after its arrival.

Last Spring you were unable to get me English grass seed; but if it is to be had now, it would be very convenient for me to receive as much as would sow five acres, say 50 lbs. The grass I mean goes under so many different names, that this may be a reason why you were unsuccessful: by some it is call'd English grass, by others Goose grass, again Spear grass. In short, it is that kind of grass which affords the best turf for walks and Lawns, and is the purpose for which I want it. Could these seeds be had from the Farms, or of the growth of this Country, there would be more certainty of its coming up. Imported Seeds (even where no pranks are played with it) often gets heated in the Ship, and the vegetation thereby destroyed.

At what prices could good Ticklenburg be had in Philadelphia, Nails, paint, and in short course goods? Are goods in general cheap or dear with you? I am, etc.⁷⁰

***To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON**

Mount Vernon, November 25, 1784.

Dear Sir: A few days ago I had the pleasure to receive your favor of the 12th Instt. Altho' I felt pain from your silence, I should have imputed it to any cause rather than a diminution of friendship. The warmth of which I feel too sensibly

70. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

for you , to harbour a suspicion of the want of it *in* you, without being conscious of having given cause for the change. having ever flattered myself that our regards were reciprocal.

It gives me great pleasure to learn from yourself, that the State over which you preside is tranquil. Would to God it may ever remain so, and that all others would follow the example. Internal dissensions, and jarrings with our Neighbours, are not only productive

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of mischievous consequences, as it respects ourselves, but has a tendency to lessen our national character, and importance in the eyes of European powers. If anything can, this will expose us to their intriguing politics, and may shake the Union.

It has been my avowed and uniform opinion, ever since the interview between Baron de Steuben and Genl. Haldimand last year, that whilst a pretext could be found, the Western Posts would be withheld from us; and I do not think I should hazard a false prediction, were I to add, that they never will come into our hands in the condition they now are. When pretexts can no longer put on a decent garb, a Season may be named for the surrender, in which it would be impracticable for us to plant a garrison, or transport provisions and stores. an interregnum would then follow, during which the Indians by innuendos, [*sic*] may reduce them to ashes. I wish it may be otherwise, but these are my opinions.

I am sorry we have been disappointed in our expectation of the Mineral Spring at Saratoga. and of the purchase of that part of the Oeriskeny tract on which Fort Schuyler stands; but I am glad you have succeeded upon such advantageous terms in the purchase of 6,000 acres adjoining; for you certainly have obtained it amazingly cheap. Be so good, my dear Sir, along with the other information you have kindly promised me, to signify whether you have any prospects of borrowing (on interest) money for the payment of my moiety (as was talked of between us) or whether I am to provide it in any other manner; that I may take measures accordingly. The time is also come for the payment of interest due on the old score, and I shall do it with as little delay as possible.

It gave great pain to Mrs. Washington and myself, to hear of Mrs. Clintons indisposition, and of the sickness and accidents with which your little flock have been afflicted. Our best, and sincere wishes are offered for them, and we hope, shortly, to hear of their perfect restoration; for we have

a most affectionate regard for them all, and feel ourselves interested in everything which concerns them.

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Give me leave now, my dear Sir, to thank you for your recollection, and attention to the small articles which I begged you to provide for me. Whenever you conceive the season is proper, and as opportunity offers, I shall hope to receive the Balsam trees; or any others which you may think curious, and exoticks with us; as I am endeavouring to improve the grounds about my house in this way. If perchance the Sloop Pilgrim is not yet Sailed from your Port, you would add to the favor you mean to confer on me, by causing a number of Grape Vines sent me by an Uncle of the Chevr. de la Luzernes,—brought over by Captn. Williamos, [*sic*] and deposited by him in the Garden of a Mr. Beakman near the City, to be forwarded by that Vessel. They consist of a variety of the most valuable eating grapes of France; a list of the kinds, and distinction of them, no doubt accompanied the Sets. I pray you to take some of each sort for your own use, and request Mr. Beakman to do the same, with my thanks for his care of them.

I thank you for the interest you take in the welfare of my Nephew,⁸³ and for his letter which you were so obliging as to send me. Poor young fellow! his pursuit after health is, I fear, altogether fruitless. Ever since the month of May he has been traversing the Seas, from Island to Island, to very little purpose. When he last wrote he was about to Sail for Charleston, where he proposed to spend the Winter; and if no salutary effects resulted from it, to come hither and resign himself, to his fate, in the Spring. Mrs. Washington unites with me in every kind and affectionate regard for you, Mrs. Clinton and family, and with sentiments of warmest friendship, etc.

PS. Tell Walker that Mrs. Washington and I not only congratulate him on his matrimonial connexion, but wish him all the joy and comfort which is to be derived from a good wife.

[N.Y.H.S.]

To MARCHIONESS DE LAFAYETTE

Mount Vernon, November 25, 1784.

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Madam: If my expression was equal to my sensibility, I should in more elegant language than I am Master of, declare to you my sense of the obligation I am under for the letter you did me the honor to write me by the Marqs. de la Fayette, and thanks for this flattering instance of your regard. The pleasure I received in once more embracing my friend could only have been encreased by your presence, and that

83. George Augustine Washington.

opportunity I should thereby have had of paying, in my own house, the homage of my respectful attachment to his better half. I have obtained a promise which the Marqs. has ratified to Mrs. Washington, that he will use his influence to bring you with him to this Country, whenever he shall visit it again. When the weight of so powerful an advocate is on our side, will you My Dr. Marchioness deny us the pleasure of accompanying him to the shores of Columbia? In offering our mite, we can only assure you that endeavours shall not be wanting on our part to make this new world as agreeable to you as rural scenes and peaceful retirement are competent to. The Marquis returns to you with all the warmth and ardour of a newly inspired lover. We restore him to you in good health, crowned with wreaths of love and respect from every part of the Union. That his meeting with you, his family and friends, may be propitious, and as happy as your wishes can make it: that you may long live together revered and beloved, and that you may transmit to a numerous progeny the virtue which you both possess, is consonate with the vow and fervent wish of your devoted and most respectful Humble Servant.⁷⁵

To MADEMOISELLE DE LAFAYETTE

November 25, 1784.

Permit me to thank you my dear little correspondent for the favor of her letter of the 18th. of June last, and to impress her with the idea of the pleasure I shall derive in a continuation

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75. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

of them. Her papa is restored to her with all the good health, paternal affection and honors her tender heart could wish.

He will carry a kiss to her from me, (which might be more agreeable from a pretty boy) and give her assurances of the affectionate regard with which I have the pleasure of being her well wisher.⁷⁶

To DOCTOR FRIEDRICH ANTON MESMER

Mount Vernon, November 25, 1784.

Sir: The Marqs. de la Fayette did me the honor of presenting to me your favor of the 16th. of June;⁷⁷ and of entering into some explanation of the powers of Magnetism, the discovery of which, if it should prove as extensively beneficial as it is said, must be fortunate indeed for Mankind, and redound very highly to the honor of that genius to whom it owes its birth. For the confidence reposed in me by the Society which you have formed for the purpose of diffusing and deriving from it, all the advantages expected; and for your favourable sentiments of me, I pray you to receive my gratitude, and the assurances of the respect and esteem with which I have the honor, etc.⁷⁷

76. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

77. Mesmer's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

To DAVID HUMPHREYS

Mount Vernon, November 25, 1784.

My Dr. Humphrys: I have had the pleasure to receive two Letters from you since your arrival in France, and cannot let the Marqs. de la Fayette depart without an

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acknowledgment of them, altho' his doing it is sudden, and as you may well suppose with company; under these circumstances I am not well in a condition to do it.

When I am a little more at leisure (if that ever should be) I will give you all the occurrences of this quarter that have come under my view and recollection: at present I will content myself with informing you that we are all very well, and join very sincerely in every wish for your health, welfare and every happiness you yourself can desire. I am, etc.⁷⁸

***To COMTE DE ROCHAMBEAU**

Mount Vernon, November 25, 1784.

My dear Count: Your favor of the 9th. of Sept^r, enclosing the copy of a letter from the Marqs. de Segar,⁸¹ is this moment received. The repeated instances of the honor, conferred on the Society of the Cincinnati by His most Christn. Majesty's indulgent recognition of it, is highly flattering to the Order; and merits the most grateful acknowledgements of all its Members.

The pleasure with which you say Prince Henry of Prussia viewed my Picture at your house, is very flattering. I can never too often assure you of my Affectionate regard, and of the respectful attachment with which I have the honor etc.⁸²

78. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

81. Rochambeau's letter and a copy of Ségur's letter of Aug. 28, 1784, are in the *Washington Papers*.

82. From the original in the *Rochambeau Papers* in the Library of Congress.

On November 25 Washington wrote briefly to a Monsieur De Venie, referring him to the Society of the Cincinnati in France for a decision as to his claim to be received into the Society. A copy of this letter is in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

To VICOMTE DE LA TOUCHE-TRÉVILLE

Mount Vernon, November 25, 1784.

Sir: The Marqs. de la Fayette presented me with the honor of your favor of the 15th. of June. Let me beseech you to be persuaded sir, that I derived great pleasure from its contents, and shall think it a very happy circumstance if fortune should ever place it in my power to facilitate your views of settlement in a country which your personal services have contributed to free from those shackles which were forging for its bondage. The acquisition of such a Citizen cannot be more pleasing, than honorable to America; and in whatever I can be useful towards the fulfilment of your wishes, you have only to command my best services. I have the honor, etc.⁷⁸

78. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To JOSEPH MANDRILLON⁷⁹

Mount Vernon, November 25, 1784.

Sir: I have had the honor to receive your favor of the 11th. of June, accompanied with your remarks and enquiries concerning America. The honorable mention which you make of me in both is far above my deserts, and to be ascribed more to your politeness than to my merits: on my gratitude however you have a powerful claim; at the same time that it becomes matter of regret to me, that my want of knowledge in the French language will not allow me to become well acquainted with all the beauties of your Spectator. I must pray you to do me the justice to believe that I am, etc.⁸⁰

79. A French merchant of Amsterdam, He had published in that city in 1784 *Le Spectateur Americain and Recherches Philosophiques sur la Découverte de l'Amerique*.

80. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

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On November 25 Washington wrote briefly to Monsieur Maithe, Avocat at the Parliament at Toulouse, Languedoc, France. thanking him for a pamphlet. A copy of this is in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

To CHEVALIER DE COËTNEMPREN KERSAINT⁸⁵

Mount Vernon, November 25, 1784.

Sir: I regret exceedingly that my absence from home should have happened at a time when you intended me the honor of a visit. I shall consider the tour I made, on that account, as unfortunate. If the orders of your Prince, or a desire to see these shores again, should ever bring you into this Country, I pray you to be assured of the pleasure I should feel the honor of a visit from you. For the favourable sentiments you are pleased to express for me, you have a claim upon my gratitude. With much respect I have the honor, etc.⁸⁴

To WILLIAM WASHINGTON

Mount Vernon, November 25, 1784.

Dear Sir: From a letter dated the 9th. of last month from my Nephew Geo: Augt. Washington then at Burmuda, I have reason to believe he is ere this at Charleston. The poor fellow is travelling about in pursuit of health, which, it is to be feared he will never obtain. His determination at the time he wrote to me was, to procure a passage, which he thought might happen in a fortnight or three weeks, for Turks Island, thence to your City, where he proposed to stay during the inclemency of the Winter.

He writes to me for some winter cloaths which he left here, but as I know of no direct or safe conveyance,

84. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

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85. Armand Guy Simon de Coëtnempren Kersaint, captain, French Navy, who visited America with a French squadron. He wrote to Washington (September 12) from York, in the Chesapeake. His letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

and as I presume his finances may be some what reduced, you would oblige me by procuring him a credit for such sums as he may want for this and other purposes, and I will see that due payment is made. I beg leave to recommend him to your patronage and kind offices whilst he remains in So. Carolina, he is a very amiable young man, and one for whom I have an entire affection and regard.

I saw your Brother, well, the other day at Richmond. It is said he is on the point of Matrimony; but of this and other matters of family concern, I presume you receive regular and better advice than I can give. tho' unknown I beg leave to offer my best respects to your Lady. Mrs. Washington joins me in it, and in compliments. to yourself. I am, etc.⁸⁴

To CHEVALIER DE LA LUZERNE

Mount Vernon, December 5, 1784.

Sir: Your early attention to me after your arrival at the Court of Versailles, amidst scenes of gaiety and the gratulations of friends, does me great honor, and excites my warmest acknowledgments. That your august Sovereign, his amiable consort, and the Princes his brothers, should deign to interest themselves in, and wish to be acquainted with the circumstances of my life, is one of the most flattering incidents of it; and affects my sensibility beyond any expression I have of my feelings. If any thing could overcome the present difficulties which impede my desires to pay my respectful homage at your Court, it would be the wish which you say these august personages have been pleased to express to see me there, and the welcome

84. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

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reception I should meet from the nation at large, especially from those characters to whom I have the honor of a personal acquaintance; but I fear my vows and earnest wishes are the only tribute of respect I shall ever have it in my power to offer them in return.

It gave me great pleasure to learn from your letter (of the 12th. of Sept.) that the sword which had been so lately sheathed, was likely to remain in the scabbard for some time, other information according with appearances, seem rather to indicate an approaching storm in the United Netherlands; which, in its consequences, might touch the torch, which would kindle the flames of a general War in Europe. How far British policy may yield to Irish claims, is not for me to determine. The first, it should seem, have had too much of civil contentions to engage, without some respite, in fresh broils; and the other is too near, and too much divided among themselves, to oppose effectually without foreign aid, especially maritime. But I know not enough of their politic's, or their expectations, to hazard an opinion respecting the issue of their disputes. That they slumbered during the favourable moment, none I think can deny, and favourable moments in war, as in love, once lost are seldom regained.

We have lately held a treaty with the Six Nations at Fort Stanwix, advantageously it is said for the United States, tho' the issue of it is not pleasing to that of New York. The Commissioners were by the last accounts, proceeding via Fort Pitt, to Cayahoga to a Meeting of the Western Tribes, who every now and then have bickerings with our Settlers on the Ohio, in which lives and

property have been lost. At the eclairissement which is about to be had with them, it is to be hoped a proper understanding will take place, the cause of discontent removed, and peace and amity perfectly reestablished.

The honor of your correspondence I shall ever set a high value upon, and shall thank you for the continuation of it; the occurrences of Europe cannot come thro' a better informed channel, nor from a more pleasing pen. Such returns as can flow from the cottage of

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retirement, I will make you: these indeed will be inadequate; but to a mind generous as yours is, there is more pleasure in conferring than in receiving an obligation.

If Sir, the name of your Sovereign has been committed to your letter by his approbation or authority, you will know how far my respectful acknowledgments are due, and can be offered with propriety. I wish not to obtrude myself; nor to step over that line which custom has drawn, altho' feeling more respect and veneration for the King and Queen of France than I have powers to utter, I should in that case rest more on your abilities and their goodness to disclose them, than upon my own faint endeavours. To the military characters with whom I have the honor of an acquaintance, I present my best wishes and affectionate regards; at the same time that I never can too often repeat to you the assurances of the esteem and attachment with which I have the honor, etc.¹

1. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To HENRY KNOX

Mount Vernon, December 5, 1784.

My Dr. Sir: Apologies are idle things: I will not trouble you with them; that I am your debtor in the epistolary way I acknowledge, and that appearances indicate a disposition to remain so, I cannot deny; but I have neither the inclination nor the effrontery to follow the example of great men or St—s to withhold payment altogether. To whatever other causes therefore my silence may be attributed, ascribe it not, I beseech you to want of friendship, for in this, neither time nor absence can occasion a diminution; and I regret that fortune has placed us in different States and distant climes, where an interchange of sentiments can only be by letter.

When your letter of the 26th. of July came here, I was upon the eve of a tour to the Westward which ended in the neighbourhood of Fort Pit, altho' my original plan took in the Great Kanhawa. I found from information, that the Indians were in too discontented

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a mood to render it prudent for me to run the risk of insult: to see the condition of the property I had in that Country, and the quality of my Lands, were all the objects I had in view. Those in the vicinity of Fort Pitt (for which I have had patents more than ten years) I found in possession of people who set me at defiance, under the claim of preoccupancy. Another year, and I may find the rest seized under the like pretext; but as the land cannot be removed, altho' the property may be changed, I thought it better to return, than to make a bad matter worse by hazarding abuse from the Savages of the Country.

I am now endeavoring to stimulate my Countrymen to the extension of the inland navigation of the rivers Potomac and James, thereby, and a short land transportation, to connect the Western Territory by strong commercial bands with this. I hope I shall succeed, more on account of its political importance than the commercial advantages which would result from it, altho' the latter is an immense object: for if this Country, which will settle faster than any other ever did (and chiefly by foreigners who can have no particular predilection for *us*), cannot, by an easy communication be drawn this way, but are suffered to form commercial intercourses (which lead we all know to others) with the Spaniards on their right and rear, or the British on their left, they will become a distinct people from us, have different views, different interests, and instead of adding strength to the Union, may in case of a rupture with either of those powers, be a formidable and dangerous neighbour.

After much time spent (charity directs us to suppose in duly considering the matter) a treaty has at length been held with the Six Nations at Fort Stanwix: much to the advantage it is said of the United States, but to the great disgust of that of New York: fruitlessly, it is added by some, who assert that the Deputies on the part of the Indians were not properly authorized to treat. How true this may be, I will not pretend to decide; but certain it is in my opinion, that there is a kind of fatality attending all our public measures, inconceivable delays, particular States counteracting the plans of the United States when submitted

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to them, opposing each other upon all occasions, torn by internal disputes, or supinely negligent and inattentive to everything which is not local and self interesting

and very often short sighted in these, make up our system of conduct. Would to God our own Countrymen, who are entrusted with the management of the political machine, could view things by that large and extensive scale upon which it is measured by foreigners, and by the Statemen of Europe, who see what we might be, and predict what we shall come to. In fact, our federal Government is a name without substance: No State is longer bound by its edicts, than it suits *present* purposes, without looking to the consequences. How then can we fail in a little time, becoming the sport of European politics, and the victims of our own folly.

I met the Marqs. de la Fayette at Richmond, brought him to this place, conducted him to Annapolis, saw him on the road to Baltimore, and returned. About the middle of this month he expected to embark at New York for France. He tells us that Mrs. Knox was about to add to your family, we hope 'ere this we may congratulate you both on a son, or daughter, according to your desires. Mrs. Washington joins me in every good sentiment of esteem, regard and friendship, I am, etc.

P.S. Had you an agreeable tour to the Eastward? Are the State Societies² in the New England Governments making any moves towards obtaining Charters? If they are, with what success?³

2. Of the Cincinnati.

3. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

***To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON**

Mount Vernon, December 8, 1784.

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Dear Sir: When the Marqs. de la Fayette left this place, he expected to embark abt. the 14th. or 15th. Instr. on board the Nymph frigate, at New York, for France. Therefore, as this event may have taken place before this letter gets that far, I take the liberty of putting the enclosed packet under cover to you, with a request, if he should have Sailed, to forward it by the first French Packet which follows.

In looking into Millers Gardeners Dictionary, I find, besides transplanting, that the Pine-tree and ever greens of all kinds, are to be raised from the Seed. As this may be an easier way of helping me to the balm of Gilead, Spruce, White pine, or Hemlock, than by Stolks, I would thank your Excellency when it may be convenient (if it is not too late in the Season for it) to forward me some of these Seeds; especially the first, extracted from the Cone, and put up in Sand. A thimble ful or two of each would suffice, and this might, at any time, come by the Stage, first to the care of Colo. Biddle in Philadelphia, who would forward it to me. Mrs. Washington joins me in best wishes for Mrs. Clinton, yourself and all the family. With great truth etc.⁴

To MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE

Mount Vernon, December 8, 1784.

My Dr. Marqs: The peregrination of the day in which I parted with you, ended at Marlbro': the next day, bad as it was, I got home before dinner.⁵

In the moment of our separation

4. From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by John Gilbert, of Philadelphia.

5. Washington parted from Lafayette at Annapolis, apparently on December 1, and reached Mount Vernon on December 2.

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upon the road as I travelled, and every hour since, I felt all that love, respect and attachment for you, with which length of years, close connexion and your merits have inspired me. I often asked myself, as our carriages distended,⁶ whether that was the last sight, I ever should have of you? And tho' I wished to say no, my fears answered yes. I called to mind the days of my youth, and found they had long since fled to return no more; that I was now descending the hill, I had been 52 years climbing, and that tho' I was blessed with a good constitution, I was of a short lived family, and might soon expect to be entombed in the dreary mansions of my father's. These things darkened the shades and gave a gloom to the picture, consequently to my prospects of seeing you again: but I will not repine, I have had my day.

Nothing of importance has occurred since I parted with you; I found my family well, and am now immersed in company; notwithstanding which, I have in haste, produced a few more letters to give you the trouble of, rather inclining to commit them to your care, than to pass them thro' many and unknown hands.

It is unnecessary, I persuade myself to repeat to you my Dr. Marqs. the sincerity of my regards and friendship, nor have I words which could express my affection for you, were I to attempt it. My fervent prayers are offered for your safe and pleasant passage, happing meeting with Madame la Fayette and family, and the completion of every wish of your heart, in all which Mrs. Washington joins me, as she does in compliments. to Capt. Grandchean and the Chevr.⁷ of whom little Wash:ⁿ often speaks. With every sentiment. wch. is propitious and endearing, I am, etc.⁸

6. A questionable error of the copyist; "distanced" seems more likely to have been the word written by Washington.

7. Chevalier Caraman.

8. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To GEORGE MASON

December 13, 1784.

Dr. Sir: My brother John¹¹ is much in want of four, five or six hundred pounds which he is desirous of borrowing on Interest. If it is in your power to supply him I will become security for the fulfilment of his agreement. He seems to have little expectation that money in these times, can be had at the common interest; and his own words will best express what he is willing to allow.

I believe I mentioned to you before (when he was last up) that I was willing to receive ninety pounds for an hundred, and pay interest for the latter sum from the date, provided I could be allowed to retain the principal two years. If I could receive 4, 5, or 6 hundred pounds on these terms, it would be a real convenience and happiness for me; because it would enable me to observe that punctuality in dealing I always wished to do, and without which I am miserable. If you could prevail upon Colo. Mason, or any other Gentleman to furnish me with the above sum on these terms, you would confer a very great favor, and I would attend at a time to be appointed to give Bond and receive the money.

To this, I can add nothing but my wishes for his success, an expression of my own inclination to have supplied his want, if I had been in circumstances to have it done. I am, etc.¹²

11. John Augustine Washington.

12. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS¹³

Mount Vernon, December 14, 1784.

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Dear Sir: The letter which you did me the honor to write to me on the 20th. of last month, only came to my hands by the post preceding the date of this. For the copy of the treaty held with the Six Nations at Fort Stanwix, you will please to accept my thanks. These people have given I think, all that the United States could reasonably have required of them; more perhaps than the State of New York conceives ought to have been asked from them by any other than their own Legislature. I wish they were better satisfied. Individual States opposing the measures of the United States, encroaching upon the territory of each other; and setting up old and obsolete claims, is verifying the prediction of our enemies, and is truly unfortunate. If the Western tribes are as well disposed to treat with us as the Six Nations have been; and will cede a competent District of Land No. West of the Ohio to answer our present purposes; it will be a circumstance as unexpected; as pleasing to me; for it was apprehended that they would agree to the latter reluctantly, if at all: but the example of the northern Indians who (if they have not relinquished their claim) have pretensions to a large part of those Lands; may have a powerful influence on the Western gentry, and smooth the way for the Commissioners who have proceeded to Cayahoga.

It gave me pleasure to find by the last Gazettes, that a sufficient number of States had assembled to form a Congress, and that you were chosen to preside

13. Richard Henry Lee.

in it,¹⁴ on this event be pleased to accept my compliments of congratulation. To whatever causes the delay of this meeting may have been ascribed,¹⁵ it most certainly has an unfavourable aspect; contributes to lessen (at present too low) the dignity and importance of the federal government, and is hurtful to our national character in the eyes of Europe.

It is said (I do not know how founded) that our Assembly have repealed their former act respecting British debts. If this be true, and the State of New York has not acted repugnant to the terms of the Treaty, the British Government can no longer hold the western Posts under that cover; but I shall be mistaken if they do not entrench themselves behind some

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other expedient to effect it; or will appoint a time for surrendering them of which we cannot avail ourselves; the probable consequence of which will be the destruction of the works.

The Assemblies of Virginia and Maryland have now under consideration the extension of the inland navigation of the rivers Potomac and James, and opening a communication between them and the Western waters: they seem fully impressed with the political as well as the commercial advantages which would result from the accomplishment of these great objects; and I hope will embrace the present moment to put them in train for speedy execution. Would it not at the same time be worthy of the wisdom and attention of Congress, to have the western waters well explored, the navigation of them fully ascertained, accurately laid down, and a complete and perfect map made of the Country; at least, as far westwardly as the Miamies running into the Ohio and Lake Erie; and to see how the waters of them communicate with the river St. Joseph which

14. Lee was elected President of Congress on November 30.

15. Congress was to have assembled October 30, but did not succeed in organizing until November 30.

empties into the Lake Michigan, and with the Wabash? I cannot forbear observing here, that the Miami Village in Hutchins map, if it, and the waters here mentioned are laid down with any degree of accuracy, points to a very important post for the Union. The expence attending this undertaking cou'd not be great, the advantages would be unbounded; for sure I am, nature has made such an ample display of her bounties in those regions, that the more the Country is explored, the more it will rise in estimation, consequently, the greater might the revenue be to the Union. Would there be any impropriety do you think sir, in reserving for special sale, all Mines, minerals and Salt springs in the general Grants of Land belonging to the United States. The Public, instead of the few knowing ones, might in this case derive the benefits which would result from the sale of them, without infringing any rule of justice that occurs to me, or their own laws, but on the contrary inflict

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a just punishment upon those, who in defiance of the latter, have dared to create enemies, and to disturb the public tranquillity, by roaming over the country, marking and surveying the valuable spots in it, to the great disquiet of the Western Tribes of Indians, who have viewed these transactions with jealous indignation. To hit upon a happy medium price for the Western Lands, for the prevention of monopoly on one hand; and not discouraging useful settlers on the other, will no doubt require consideration, but should not employ too much time before it is announced. The spirit for emigration is great, people have got impatient,

and tho' you cannot stop the road, it is yet in your power to mark the way; a little while and you will not be able to do either. It is easier to prevent, than to remedy an evil. I shall be happy in the continuation of your correspondence, and with every sentiment of great esteem etc.¹⁶

To RICHARD CLAIBORNE

Mount Vernon, December 15, 1784.

Sir: I have received your letter of the 17th. ulto. It would interfere with no views of mine, to give you a field to speculate in, if I was sufficiently Master of the business, and had leisure for these kind of communications: but the truth is, I do not turn my thoughts to matters of that sort, and if I did, the business in which you want to be informed is too much in embryo, and depends too much on contingencies, to speak to with any degree of certainty at this time. First, because Acts of the Assemblies of Virginia and Maryland, must be obtained to incorporate private Adventurers to undertake the business. 2d. the Company must be formed before anything can be done. 3d. an actual survey of the waters, by skilful Engineers, (or persons in that line) must take place and be approved before the points at which the navigation on the different waters can be ascertained, as proper to end, or commence the water transportation. From Fort Cumberland to the Yohioghany is one of the Portages in contemplation, and from some place higher up the No. river,¹⁷ most conve

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16. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

17. The North Branch of the Potomac.

nient to the navigable part, or such part as can be made so, of the Cheat river, is another portage talked of; but whether either, neither or both may be attempted does not lie with me to determine, and therefore I should be unwilling to mislead any one by hazarding an opinion, as my knowledge of that Country goes more to the general view of it, and to general principle, than to the investigation of local spots for interested purposes. I am, etc.¹⁸

To GEORGE CHAPMAN¹⁹

Mount Vernon, December 15, 1784.

Sir: Nor until within a few days have I been honor'd with your favor of the 27th. of Sept. 1783, accompanying your treatise on Education.

My sentiments are perfectly in unison with yours sir, that the best means of forming a manly, virtuous and happy people, will be found in the right education of youth. Without *this* foundation, every other means, in my opinion, must fail; and it gives me pleasure to find that Gentlemen of your abilities are devoting their time and attention in pointing out the way. For your lucubrations on this subject which you have been so obliging as to send me, I pray you to accept my thanks, and an expression of the pleasure I felt at the declaration of your intention to devote a further portion of your time in so useful a study.

18. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

19. Formerly master of the grammar school at Dumfries, Va., and at this time master of the academy at Inchdrewer, near Banff, North Britain.

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Of the importance of education our Assemblies, happily, seem fully impressed; they establishing new, and giving further endowments to the old Seminaries of learning, and I persuade myself will leave nothing unessayed to cultivate literature and useful knowledge, for the purpose of qualifying the rising generation for patrons of good government, virtue and happiness. I have the honor, etc.²⁰

To THOMAS BLACKBURN

Mount Vernon, December 19, 1784.

Dr. Sir: The Express who brought me the resolves of our Assembly, and is going to Annapolis with dispatches for Govr. Paca, informs me that he deliver'd others to you. It only remains therefore for me to add, that Thursday next, the 23d. is the day appointed for the Commissioners to meet at Annapolis.²¹ I shall go to our Court tomorrow, and proceed from thence.²² I am, etc.²⁰

20. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

21. Blackburn became ill and did not attend.

22. On December 19 Washington also wrote a brief note to Governor Paca, notifying him that he would be in Annapolis at the time appointed. A copy of this letter is in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

To REVEREND WILLIAM GORDON

Mount Vernon, December 20, 1784.

Dear Sir: I am indebted to you for several letters, and am as much so for the Fish you kindly intended, as if it had actually arrived, and I was in the act of paying my respects to it at table, the chance, however, of doing this would be greater, was it at Boston, than in Yorktown in this State, where I am informed it was landed at the time the Marqs. de la

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Fayette did, who proceeded from thence to Richmond, where I met him, and conducted him to Annapolis on his way to New York; the place of his intended embarkation for France, about the middle of this month.

I am glad to hear that my old acquaintance Colo. Ward²³ is yet under the influence of vigorous passions. I will not ascribe the intrepidity of his late enterprize to a mere *flash* of desires, because, in his military career he would have learnt how to distinguish between false alarms and a serious movement. Charity therefore induces me to suppose that like a prudent general, he had reviewed his *strength*, his arms, and ammunition before he got involved in an action. But if these have been neglected, and he has been precipitated into the measure, let me advise him to make the *first* onset upon his fair del Toboso, with vigor, that the impression may be deep, if it cannot be lasting, or frequently renewed.

We are all well at this time except Miss Custis, who still feels the effect, and sometimes the return of her fever. Mrs. Lund Washington has added a daughter to her family. She, Child and

23. Col, Joseph(?) Ward.

husband are well, and become house-keepers at the distance of about four miles from this place.

We have a dearth of News, but the fine weather keeps us busy, and we have leisure for cogitation. All join in best wishes for you, Doctr. and Mrs. Stuart are of those who do it. I am, etc.²⁴

To MELANCTON SMITH

Mount Vernon, December 20, 1784.

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Sir: Your letter of the 27th. of October came to my hands the 14th. inst.; the box of Plate is not yet arrived.

It would have been very obliging in you, and would have done me an essential kindness, had you as soon as this Box arrived at New York (which you say was the latter part of summer) given me notice thereof by post; altho' there might have been no opportunity at that time, or in any short time thereafter to forward the package to me: for having been assured by Mr. Parker (before I left New York last year) that I might look for this Plate in the Spring; having, in answer to a letter I wrote to him early in the summer, been informed of some disappointment to his expectation of it; and having heard soon after, that that Gentlen. was under peculiar embarrassment, and not a word from him since, I gave up every idea of having my commission complied with by him, and supplied myself, not fourteen days ago, in another way. I now have both setts, neither of which can be disposed of, one having been used, and the other having my Crest and arms on it.

When I was at New York,

24. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

altho' I could not get Mr. Parker, from his then hurry, to render me a full and complete transcript of my Accots.; yet he gave me a short statement of the debit and credit of my dealings with him by which there is a balance of £65.5.5 York Curry. due to me, this sum I left in his hands declaredly and by agreement to be applied towards payment for the Plate his brother was to get for me. If you will be pleased (if Mr. Parkers books are in your possession) to examine into this matter, or if they are not, will make out an account with this credit, at the current exchange, I will cause it to be paid. To do it in Alexandria, if you have any Agent or correspondent there, would be more convenient for me, as I have no dealings either in New York or London at this time. In this case I shou'd be glad to have the original Bill sent with the Accot. If the business cannot be closed in this manner I will endeavour to accomodate myself to your wishes in any other way I am able. I am, etc.26

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26. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE

Annapolis, December 23, 1784.

My Dr. Marqs. You would scarcely expect to receive a letter from me at this place: a few hours before I set out for it, I as little expected to cross the Potomac again this winter, or even to be fifteen miles from home before the first of April, as I did to make you a visit in an air Balloon in France.

I am here however, with Genl. Gates, at the request of the Assembly of Virginia, to fix matters with the Assembly of this State respecting the extension of the inland navigation of Potomac, and the communication between it and the Western waters; and hope a plan will be agreed upon to the mutual satisfaction of both States, and to the advantage of the Union at large.

It gave me pain to hear that

the Frigate la Nymph, grounded in her passage to New York, we have various accots. of this unlucky accident, but I hope she has received no damage, and that your embarkation is not delay'd by it.

The enclosed came to my hands under cover of the letter which accompanies it, and which is explanatory of the delay it has met with. I can only repeat to you assurances of my best wishes for an agreeable passage and happy meeting with Madame la Fayette and your family, and of the sincere attachment and affection with which, I am, etc.

PS. You and your heirs, Male, are made Citizens of this State²⁷ by an Act of Assembly. You will have an official Accot. of it, this is by the by.²⁸

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27. Maryland and also Virginia made Lafayette a citizen.

28. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

On December 23 Washington wrote a brief letter to Baron Montesquieu, Marquis de la Brède, aide to Chevalier de Chastellux, introducing John Ridout, of Annapolis. A copy of this letter is in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

To REVEREND JEREMY BELKNAP

Mount Vernon, January 5, 1785.³²

Revd. Sir: A few days ago, under cover from Mr. Hazard of Philada., I was honored with your favor of the 19th. of July, and the first volume of your history of New Hampshire. For both I pray you to accept my thanks: but my acknowledgements are more particularly due for your favourable expression, in the former, of my past endeavors to support the cause of liberty. The proof you have given of your approbation of this, is interesting. I receive it with gratitude, and am with great respect, Revd. Sir, etc.³³

***To THE SECRETARY AT WAR**

Mount Vernon, January 5, 1785.

My dear Sir: About the beginning of last month I wrote you a pretty long letter, and soon after, received your favor of the 23d. of November. It is not the letters from my friends which give me trouble, or adds ought to my perplexity. I receive them with pleasure, and pay as much attention to them as my avocations will admit.

It is references of old matters with which I have nothing to do. Applications, which oftentimes cannot be complied with. Enquiries, which would employ the pen of a historian to satisfy. Letters of compliment, as unmeaning perhaps as they are troublesome, but

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which must be attended to. And the commonplace business, which employs my pen and my time; often disagreeably.

Indeed, these with company, deprive me of exercise, and unless I can obtain relief, may be productive of disagreeable consequences. I already begin to feel the effect. Heavy, and

32. In the “Letter Book” in the *Washington Papers*, this date is wrongly copied as 1784.

33. Washington forwarded this letter in care of Ebenezer Hazard, to whom he wrote a brief, explanatory note, Jan. 5, 1785. This note is entered in the “Letter Book” in the *Washington Papers*.

painful oppressions of the head, and other disagreeable sensations, often trouble me. I am determined therefore to employ some person who shall ease me of the drudgery of this business. At *any rate*, if the whole of it is thereby suspended, I am resolved to use exercise. My private concerns also, require infinitely more attention than I have given, or can give, under present circumstances. They can no longer be neglected without involving my ruin. This, my dear Sir, is a friendly communication; I give it in testimony of my unreservedness with you, and not for the purpose of discouraging your letters; for be assured that, to corrispond with those I love is among my highest gratifications, and I perswade myself you will not doubt my sincerity when I assure you, I place you among the foremost of this class. Letters of friendship require no study, the communications are easy, and allowances are expected, and made. This is not the case with those which require re-searches, consideration, recollection, and the de—I knows what to prevent error, and to answer the ends for which they are written.

In my last I informed you that I was endeavouring to stimulate my Countrymen to the extension of the inland Navigation of our rivers; and to the opening of the best and easiest communication for Land transportation between them and the western waters. I am just returned from Annapolis to which place I was requested to go by our Assembly (with my

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bosom friend Genl. G—tes, who being at Richmond contrived to edge himself into the Commission) for the purpose of arranging matters, and forming a Law which

should be similar in both States, so far as it respected the river Potomack, which separates them. I met the most perfect accordance in that legislature; and the matter is now reported to ours, for its concurrence. The two Assemblies (not being in Circumstances to undertake this business *wholly* at the public expence) propose to incorporate such private Adventurers as shall associate for the purpose of extending the navigation of the River from the tide water as far up as it will admit Craft of ten Tons burthen, and to allow them a perpetual toll and other emoluments to induce them to subscribe freely to a Work of such magnitude; whilst they have agreed (or, I should rather say, probably will agree, as the matter is not yet concluded in the Virginia Assembly) to open, at the public expence, the communication with the Western territory. To do this will be a great political work. May be immensely extensive in a commercial point, and beyond all question, will be exceedingly beneficial for those who advance the money for the purpose of extending the Navigation of the river, as the tolls arising therefrom are to be held in perpetuity, and will encrease every year.

Rents have got to such an amazing height in Alexandria, that (having an unimproved lot or two there) I have thoughts, if my finances will support me in the measure, of building a House, or Houses thereon for the purpose of letting.

In humble imitation of the wise man, I have set me down to count the cost; and among other heavy articles of expenditure, I find lime is not the smallest.

Stone lime with us, owing to the length of (Land) transportation comes very high at that place. Shell lime, from its weakness, and the consequent quantity used, is far from being low. These considerations added to a report that this article may be had from your State by way of Ballast, upon terms much

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easier than either can be bought here, inclines me without making an apology, to give you the trouble of enquiring from those who might be disposed to enter into a contract therefor, and can ascertain the fact with precision,

1st. At what price by the Bushel, a quantity of slaked stone lime could be delivered at one of the Wharves at Alexandria (freight and every incidental charge included), or to a Lighter opposite to my own House.

2d. At what price burnt lime stone, but unslaked (if it be safe to bring such) could be delivered as above.

3d. At what price unburnt lime stone, could be delivered at the latter place.

In the last case, it might I should suppose, come as Ballast very low. In the Second, it might also come as Ballast, and (tho' higher than the former, yet) comparatively, cheap, if the danger of waters getting to it, and its slaking and heating in the Hold, would not be too great. In the first case, there would be no certainty of its goodness, because lime from the late judicious experiments of a Mr. Higgens, should be used as soon as it is slaked; and would be still better, if it was so, immediately after burning; as Air as well as water, according to his observations, weakens and injures it. Your information upon these points from those who might incline to Contract, and on whom dependance could be placed, would much oblige me; and the sooner I get it the better, as my determination is suspended.

Our amiable young friend the Marquis de la Fayette could not be otherwise than well pleased with

his reception in America. Every testimony of respect, affection and gratitude has been shewn him, wherever he went; if his heart therefore has not been impressed with these expressions (which I am far from supposing) the political consequence which he will derive

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from them must bear them in his remembrance, and point to the advantages wch. must flow.

You informed me that Mrs. Knox had got another, but left me to guess, boy or girl. On the birth of either Mrs. Washington and I sincerely congratulate you both; and offer our best wishes for you all. hoping the good health which Mrs. Knox and the Children enjoyed at the time your letter was written, may be of long continuance. The report of my coming to Boston was without foundation; I do not, at this time, know when, or whether ever, I may have it in my power to do this, altho' to see my compatriots in War, would be great gratification to my mind. With every sentiment of esteem etc.

[MS.H.S.]

To SAMUEL CHASE

Mount Vernon, January 5, 1785.

Dear Sir: Receive my thanks for your favor of 31st. ulto., and for the copies therewith enclosed: they will answer my purposes equally with the fairest that could be made.

When I found your Express at Mount Pleasant, and was unable to procure another in Marlbro', I commenced one myself, got home before dinner, and dispatched one of my servants to Hooes ferry immediately. He placed the packet into the hands of the Express there waiting, before nine o'clock next morning: on Friday with ease the business might have been laid before the Assembly of this State, yet sitting I believe. When I hear from thence, I will with pleasure communicate the result.

The attention which your assembly is giving to the establishment of public schools, for the encouragement of literature, does them great honor: to accomplish this, ought to be one of our first endeavours; I know of no object more interesting. We want something to expand the mind, and make us think with more liberallity, and act with sounder policy, than most of

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the States do. We should consider that we are not now in leading strings. It behooves us therefore to look well to our ways. My best wishes attend the Ladies of your family. I am, etc.³⁴

34. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To CHARLES CARROLL, OF CARROLLTON

January 10, 1785.

Sir: Immediately after my return from Annapolis, I wrote to some Gentlemen of my acquaintance in the Assembly of this State, suggesting the expediency of a conference between Delegates of their Body and yours, on the extension of the inland navigation of the river Potomac, and its communication with the Western waters. When I receive an answer, I will communicate the contents of it to you. I am, etc.

P. S. Are you likely Sir, to ascertain soon, to whom I am to pay the balance which is due for the land I bought of the deceas'd Mr. Clifton³⁶ under the decree of our high Court of Chancery?³⁷

To THOMAS JOHNSON

Mount Vernon, January 17, 1785.

Dear Sir: Yesterday, and not before, I received authentic information, that the Assembly of this State had passed a similar Act and resolutions with those of your Legislature, and have fixed upon the 8th. of Feby. to open Books for the purpose of receiving subscriptions in the City of Richmond and Towns of Alexandria and Winchester: which Books are to be kept open until the 10th. day of May following. They have granted equal sums towards the navigation and roads, with your Assembly. I have pleasure in giving you this information, nothing remains now but to act with dispatch and vigor.

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I presume official notice of the passing of this act, and attendant resolutions, will be made by the Executive of this State to your Governor,

36. William Clifton.

37. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

but lest thro' the hurry of business it may be delayed, I will take care that he shall have advice of it, as soon as copies can be taken; that if promulgation is necessary, and he thinks proper to act upon private information, it may not be wanted.

Our Assembly have passed a similar Law for the purpose of opening and improving the navigation of James river and a communication between it, and the nearest Western waters. With great esteem and regard, I have the honor, etc.⁴⁰

To SAMUEL CHASE

Mount Vernon, January 17, 1785.

Dear Sir: The irregularity of the post, occasioned by the frost, prevented my hearing with *certainty* what the Assembly of this State had done with the Potomac Bill, until yesterday. I have now the pleasure to inform you that they have adopted the one which passed your Legislature, and come to similar resolutions respecting the road of communication with the river Cheat, and the application to the State of Pennsylvania for another to Yohioghane. They have also passed a similar act for improving and extending the navigation of James river.

As you expressed a desire to know what the Assembly of this State had done, or were about to do respecting an establishment for the teachers of religion, I do myself the honor to enclose you a copy of their proceedings in that matter; and am, etc.⁴⁰

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40. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To JOHN FITZGERALD AND WILLIAM HARTSHORNE

Mount Vernon, January 18, 1785.

Gentln. At my return from Alexandria yesterday afternoon, I found the letters and papers herewith enclosed.⁴¹ I sent the whole, as well private as public, the former for your satisfaction, the latter for you to act upon.

As these, with the Maryland act and resolutions which I left in the hands of Mr. Lee⁴² for the purpose of communicating them to the Gentn. in town (well wishers to the inland navigation of the river &c.) contain all the information on the subject, I could give, I beg leave to refer you to them.

All the papers, except the Virginia Act, which are necessary for Mr. Richards⁴³ to strike printed copies from, I should be glad to have returned to me in the course of two or three days, as I shall have letters to write, and other matters to do, in consequence thereof. It should be intimated to the printer that the Bill is an original paper, and spared indulgently from the Clerks office: great care therefore should be taken that no scratches or blots are suffered to be made thereon. The number of copies to be struck will depend upon you Gentleman, the time for promulgation, and obtaining subscriptions is short, the former therefore should be as extensive and diffusive as the nature of the case will admit. With what materials the Managers at the City of Richmond and town of Winchester are to commence their operations, does not seem very clear; it rests with you therefore I conceive, to put things in motion, at least by opening a correspondence with the Gentlemen at these places, fixing a plan. It appears to me also, that a notification of the passing of this act and consequent resolutions should go immediately to the Executive of Maryland, from some quarter; otherwise that State may take umbrage, and think advantage on the score of subscriptions, is meant to be taken of

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41. The papers sent with this letter are listed in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

42. Charles Lee. He acted as clerk of the Alexandria meeting at which the Potomac Company was organized.

43. George Richard. He was publisher of *The Virginia Journal and Alexandria Advertiser*, Alexandria, Va.

her Citizens. From our Governor, such intimation *ought*, in my opinion, to be given; but it does not appear by anything before us, that it either has been, or is intended to be done. Therefore as the Acts and resolutions of both Assemblies are now with you, if you will cause a comparative view to be taken of them, and note the alterations, that I may write with exactitude, I will communicate the matter to Govt. Paca, lest there should be neglect or delay on the part of our Executive, or if you will do it, it may answer the same purpose.

How far Mr. Maddison might have intended the paper No. 344 for the public eye, I know not; I would have no copies therefore taken of it, as communication of its contents might come better from those who are to act under it. I have the honor, etc.

P. S. If a printed Copy of the Virginia Act could be soon obtained, I would enclose one of them to the Governor of Maryland, and a copy of the corrispondent resolutions of this State to that of Maryland; which would be the fullest and best information he cou'd receive unofficially.⁴⁵

44. A paper by Madison "Respecting the Jurisdiction &c of Potomac."

45. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To BENJAMIN HARRISON⁴⁶

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Mount Vernon, January 22, 1785.

My dear Sir: It is not easy for me to decide by which my mind was most affected upon the receipt of your letter of the 6th. inst., surprise or gratitude: both were greater than I have words to express. The attention and good wishes which the Assembly have evidenced by their act for vesting in me 150 shares in the navigation of each of the rivers Potomac and James, are more than mere compliment; there is an unequivocal and substantial meaning annexed. But believe me sir, notwithstanding these, no circumstance has happened to me since I left the walks of public life, which has so much embarrassed me. On the one hand, I consider this act, as I have already observed, as a noble and unequivocal proof of the good opinion, the affection, and disposition of my Country to serve me; and I should be hurt, if by declining the acceptance of it, my refusal should be construed into disrespect, or the smallest slight upon the generous intention of the country: or, that an ostentatious display of disinterestedness or public virtue, was the source of the refusal. On the other hand, it is really my wish to have my mind, and my actions which are the result of contemplation, as free and independent as the air, that I may be more at liberty (in things which my opportunities and experience have brought me to the knowledge of) to express my sentiments, and if necessary, to suggest what may occur to me, under the fullest conviction, that altho' my judgment may be arraigned, there will be no suspicion that sinister motives had the smallest influence in the suggestion. Not content then with the bare consciousness of my having, in all this navigation business, acted upon the clearest conviction of the political importance of the measure; I would wish that every individual who may hear that it was a favorite plan of mine, may know also

46. Speaker of the House of Delegates, Virginia.

that I had no other motive for promoting it, than the advantage I conceived it would be productive of to the Union, and to this State in particular, by cementing the Eastern and

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Western Territory together, at the same time that it will give vigor and encrease to our commerce, and be a convenience to our Citizens.

How would this matter be viewed then by the eye of the world; and what would be the opinion of it, when it comes to be related that G W—n exerted himself to effect this work, and G. W— has received 20,000 Dollars, and £5,000 Sterling of the public money as an interest therein? Would not this in the estimation of it (if I am entitled to any merit for the part I have acted; and without it there is no foundation for the act) deprive me of the principal thing which is laudable in my conduct it not, in some respects, be considered in the same light as a pension? And would not the apprehension of this make me more reluctantly offer my sentiments in future? In a word, under what ever pretence, and however customary these gratuitous gifts are made in other Countries, should I not thence forward be considered as a dependant? One moments thought of which would give me more pain, than I should receive pleasure from the product of all the tolls, was every farthing of them vested in me: altho' I consider it as one of the most certain and increasing Estates in the Country.

I have written to you with an openness becoming our friendship. I could have said more on the subject; but I have already said enough to let you into the State of my mind. I wish to know whether the ideas I entertain occurred to, and were expressed by any member in or out of the

House. Upon the whole, you may be assured my Dr. Sir, that my mind is not a little agitated. I want the best information and advice to settle it. I have no inclination (as I have already observed) to avail myself of the generosity of the Country: nor do I want to appear ostentatiously disinterested (for more than probable my refusal would be ascribed to this motive) or that the Country should harbour an idea that I am disposed to set little value on her favours, the manner of granting which is as flattering, as the grant is important. My present difficulties however shall be no impediment to the progress of the undertaking. I will receive the full and frank opinions of my friends with thankfulness. I shall have time

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enough between the sitting of the next Assembly to consider the tendency of the act, and in this, as in all other matters, will endeavor to decide for the best.

My respectful compliments and best wishes, in which Mrs. Washington and Fanny Bassett (who is much recovered) join, are offered to Mrs. Harrison and the rest of your family. It would give us great pleasure to hear that Mrs. Harrison had her health restored to her. With every sentiment of esteem, regard and friendship. I am, etc.⁴⁷

To WILLIAM GRAYSON

Mount Vernon, January 22, 1785.

Dear Sir: Your letter, with the Books, Potomac bill and other papers, did not reach this until past eleven o'clock on Monday forenoon; at which hour having set off for Alexandria, I did not receive the dispatches until my return in the

47. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

evening. The next morning I forwarded the Bill to Messrs. Fitzgerald, Hartshorn to act upon, and to get a number of copies struck for promulgation, and the benefit of those who might wish to become subscribers. For the trouble you have had with the Books and for your care of the letters and papers which accompanied them, you will please to accept my thanks.

It would have given me much satisfaction if, instead of pursuing the rout thro' Frederick, you had resolved to have taken this road to the seat of Congress: besides the pleasure of seeing you, I wished to have had some conversation with you on the subject of the late generosity of the Assembly towards me; for I will freely confess to you my dear sir, that no circumstance has happened to me since I quited the walks of public life that has given me more embarrassment, than the act vesting me with 150 shares in the tolls of each of the rivers Potomac and James. On the one hand I consider this instance of the regard

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and attention of my native State as more than a mere compliment: this evidence of her good opinion and wishes to serve me is *unequivocal* and *substantial*, it has impressed me with sentiments of the deepest gratitude, and I should be hurt, if I could think that my non-acceptance...48

48. The omitted portion is practically the same as Washington's letter to Benjamin Harrison, the same date as this letter (Jan. 22, 1785), *q. v.*

Did you not my good Sir tell me when I had the pleasure of spending an evening with you at Dumfries, that you either had or could procure me some Scions of the Aspin tree? Are there any young shoots which could he had of the Yew tree, or Hemlock (for I do not now recollect which of these it is) that grows on the Margin of Quantico Creek? Plantations of this kind are now become my amusement and I should be glad to know where I could obtain a supply of such sorts of trees as would diversify the scene. With great esteem and regard, I am, etc.49

49. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To MATTHEW CAMPBELL

January 22, 1785.

Sir: Understanding that Mr. Wilson of Alexandria was empower'd to sell the plaister of Paris which you had just sent to that place, I informed him by Mr. L. W—53 of the mistake under which a vessel load of it had been landed at my wharf, but that, as it was there, I was willing to pay for it at the same rate as that which was in Alexandria should sell. To this, some considerable time after (if my memory serves) he answered, that the matter must be settled with you.

It now remains for me sir, to bring you acquainted with the exact state of this matter, and on which you may depend. On my return from Richmond in Novr. last, Mr. Graham54

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informed me that you had received (I think he said) about 50 tons of this stone, and asked if I wanted any of it. I answered that I might take a little of it, at any rate, merely for experiment as a manure; but that taking a large quantity, would depend altogether upon the price of it, of which he was to know the lowest, and give me an account. Under this idea, and waiting for this information, I left no direction concerning this matter when I accompanied the Marquis de la Fayette to Annapolis, during my absence there, the plaister arrived: those about me not knowing what to do in the matter, and supposing, I presume, that I had ordered it, suffered it to be landed: which I most assuredly would not have done; had I been at home, at any thing like the price mentioned in Mr. Grahams letter.

The plaister is yet on my wharf in the order it was first landed, except that I had the powdered part of it, the virtue of which (if it ever possessed any as a manure)

53. Lund Washington.

54. Robert(?) Graham, of Fairfax, Va.

I presume must have been nearly exhausted, put into casks. I am yet willing to take it at whatever price that which is in Alexandria shall sell; or at any reasonable price to be agreed upon between ourselves, or by others on our behalf. More I think under the circumstances I have related, no person will think I ought to pay. Twelve Dollars per ton, I never can consent to give; nor do I think you would desire it, when I inform you that before the war, I got all I wanted from Fitzhughs⁵⁵ in Maryland for digging out of the Bank; and that it never was, nor can be considered as of much more value than lime-stone, being of the nature of it. I am, etc.⁵⁶

To THOMAS CLARKE⁵⁷

Mount Vernon, January 25, 1785.

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Sir: In your name and behalf Mr. Laurens,⁵⁸ as he passed thro' this State last month on his way from the seat of Congress to Charleston presented me a very handsome gold headed Cane; and accompanied it with such favorable sentiments of your good wishes towards the American revolution, and the flattering opinion you entertained of me, as to induce me, contrary to my usual custom, to accept of it. With this acknowledgement thereof, I beg you to receive my thanks for so evincive a mark of your esteem and approbation, and the assurances of my being, Sir, Yrs. etc.⁵⁹

55. William Fitzhugh.

56. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

57. Of London.

58. Henry Laurens.

59. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To SIR JAMES JAY

Mount Vernon, January 25, 1785.

Sir: By means of the frost, and the consequent interruption of the Post, your favor of the 20th. of December did not come to my hands until the 17th. instant. It is to be regretted that Lady Huntingtons communications were not earlier made to the several Legislatures to whom they were addressed; for if the circumstances of any will allow them to be adopted, it will be found that a year will have been lost by the delay. In some States, they must have reached the Executive after the Assemblies were up; in others, would get there towards the close of them, when fresh matters are rarely attended to, and some Sessions (as in this State) holden but once a year.

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I am clearly in sentiment with her Ladyship, that christianity will never make any progress among the Indians, or work any considerable reformation in their principles, until they are brought to a state of greater civilization; and the mode by which she means to attempt this, as far as I have been able to give it consideration, is as likely to succeed as any other that could have been devised, and may in time effect the great and benevolent object of her Ladyships wishes: but that love of ease, impatience under any sort of controul, and disinclination to every kind of pursuit but those of hunting and war, would discourage any person possessed of less piety, zeal and philanthropy than are characteristick of Lady Huntington.

Of all the States to which her Ladyships addresses are gone, New York I believe is the only one that *now* possesses unlocated lands in such quantities, and so contiguous to any Indian settlement, as to subserve her Ladyships plan of emigration; and whether that State can accommodate them to her and their satisfaction, you can determine with more precision than I. No part of the Western Territory of Pennsylvania

is very contiguous to the habitations of the Indians, and if I mistake not, is besides otherwise appropriated. Virginia is not more convenient to them than Pennsylvania, and in her cession to the United States she was obliged to reserve Lands No. West of the Ohio to fulfil her own engagements to the military of the State: nothing then, in my opinion can be expected from her. And North Carolina having also made a similar cession is I believe, equally incapacitated to grant any great quantity of land in a body, or much in parcels. It is my opinion therefore, that Lady Huntington's proposals would come more properly before the United States, than any one, or more of them individually; and it is my sentiment clearly, that besides the pious and humane purposes which are in view, and of which we should never lose sight, motives of a political nature, should have considerable influence, because such a migration as her ladyship proposes must be an acquisition to any Country. There are but two reasons which my imagination suggests that can be opposed to it: the first is, the pressing Debts of the United States which may call for all the revenue

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which can be drawn from the most advantageous sale of their lands, and the discontents which might flow from discrimination; if peculiar exemptions in the original purchase, or indulgencies thereafter, are expected in favor of the class of Settlers proposed by the plan. And secondly, (which may have more weight) the prejudices of Monarchical people when they are unmixed with republicans, against those who have separated from them, and against their forms of Government; and this too in the vicinity of a British one, viz: Canada. Whether these are to be placed in competition with the charitable design of the

plan, considered in a religious point of view; or the great good which may result from the civilization of numerous tribes of Savages when measured on the political scale, becomes the wisdom of the honorable body to weigh with attention.

If they should decide in favor of the measure, valuable Lands with respect to fertility of soil, salubrity of climate and other natural advantages might, in one body, and in any quantity may be reserved for the purposes of such emigration, until the result of her Ladyship, endeavors to obtain them, could be known; and this too either in the vicinity of the Indian towns, or at such convenient distance from them as might be most agreeable to the emigrants, there being no settlements or appropriations (except the reservation in favor of the Virginia line of the Army) to my knowledge in all the Country No. West of the Ohio, that could interfere therewith.

As I am well acquainted with the President of Congress, I will in the course of a few days write him a private letter on this subject giving the substance of Lady Huntington's plan⁶⁰ and asking his opinion of the encouragement it might expect to receive from Congress if it should be brought before that honorable body. Were you to do the same with your brother Mr. John Jay now in Congress, and than whom none can judge better of the propriety of the measure, or give greater support to it if it should ultimately come before that supreme Council of the nation, it might lay the foundation which might be serviceable hereafter.

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Without reverberating the arguments in support of the humane and benevolent intention of Lady Huntington to christianize and reduce to a state of civilization the Savage tribes within the limits of the American States, or discanting upon the advantages which the

60. Under date of Feb. 8, 1785, in the *Washington Papers*.

Union may derive from the Emigration which is blended with, and becomes part of the plan, I highly approve of them, and having, tho' concisely, touched upon the material parts of your letter, it only remains for me to express my good wishes for the success of such a measure, and to assure you that wherein I can be instrumental to its execution, my best endeavours may be commanded. I have the honor, etc.⁶¹

***To MRS. PATIENCE WRIGHT**

Mount Vernon, January 30, 1785.

Madam: By what means it came to pass, I shall not undertake to devise; but the fact is, that your letter of the 8th. of December 1783, never got to my hands until the 12th. of the same Month in the year following. This will account for my not having acknowledged the receipt of it sooner; and for not thanking you as I now do, before, for the many flattering expressions contained in it.

If the Bust which your Son has modelled of me, should reach your hands, and afford your celebrated Genii any employment, that can amuse Mrs. Wright, it must be an honor done me. and if your inclination to return to this Country should overcome other considerations, you will, no doubt, meet a welcome reception from your Numerous friends: among whom, I should be proud to see a person so universally celebrated; and on whom, Nature has bestowed such rare and uncommon gifts. I am, etc.⁶²

61. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

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On January 27 Washington wrote a brief note to Gov. William Moultrie, introducing Count Castiglioni, an Italian nobleman. This letter is in the Long Island Historical Society.

62. From a photostat of the original in the British Museum, *Additional Manuscript* 12099.

To JOSEPH WRIGHT

Mount Vernon, January 30, 1785.

Sir: It has so happened that your Card of Septr. 1st, with the Bust which accompanied it, did not get to my hands until sometime in the course of last month: and that a letter from your good mother dated Decr. 8th. 1783, only reached me the 12th. of last December.

For the first you will please receive the united acknowledgements and thanks of Mrs. Washington and myself. The large one she prays may give you no uneasiness or hurry; your convenience in the execution will be most agreeable to her wishes.

In answer to the second, I give you the trouble of forwarding the enclosed letter when you may have occasion to write to England, our best wishes attend you; and I am, etc.⁶³

***To ÆNEAS LAMONT**

Mount Vernon, January 31, 1785.

Sir: The interruption of the Post by the frost, withheld your letter of the 31st. Ult. from me until within a few days.

The liberty you have taken in dedicating your Poetical Works to me, does me honor. The conditions upon which you offer them to the Public are generous, evincive of their purity, and conscious worth. I shall with pleasure therefore take a few copies of the bound and lettered Books, when they are ready for delivery.

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It behoves me to correct a mistake in your printed address, "To the patrons

63. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

of the fine Arts" I am no Marshall of France,⁶⁴ nor do I hold any Commission, or fill any Office under that Government, or any other whatever. I am etc.

[H.S.P.]

To GOVERNOR WILLIAM PACA

Mount Vernon, January 31, 1785.

Sir: Altho' I have no doubt, but that your Excellency has been, or will be informed of the Act of the Virginia Assembly respecting the Potomac navigation, from the Governor of the State; yet, as the Act could not be printed at Richmond for the benefit of the Managers in time, and was brought to Alexandria for that purpose. And as a pressure of other public matters may possibly have delayed the Official communication. I do myself the honor of enclosing one of the copies which was struck at the above place, and which only came to my hands to be forwarded by this post. If it should be the first that you receive, you will have it in your power to make such use of it as you shall think proper: if it should follow the Official one, I have but to pray that it may be considered as an evidence of my good wishes to the undertaking, and not as an officious interference in the business of the Executive. I have the honor, etc.⁶⁶

64. Lamont's preface is probably partially responsible for the existence of the misstatement that Washington was a marshal of France.

66. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To ELIAS BOUDINOT

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Mount Vernon, January 31, 1785.

My Dr. Sir: Under a full persuasion that my letter of Novr., to you, had miscarried, I wrote to you again by the last post, and recited the contents of it. After having done this, I was honored with your favor of the 14th. of last month.

At the same time that I thank you for your attention to my request respecting the Orchard grass seed; I have to lament that it should be the means of taking from you what you had provided for your own use; and to pray, if it is not now too late, that you would not forward it to Colo. Biddle, or at most, not more than part of it. I can only repeat the assurances of my last, in which Mrs. Washington (who does not enjoy very good health) joins, of the good wishes and sincere esteem and regard with which, I am, etc.⁶⁵

To UDN Y HAY

Mount Vernon, January 31, 1785.

Sir: The interruption of the Post, by the frost, will occasion a delay of this answer, which otherwise would have been avoided.

Not being able to decypher the name of the Merchant in London, to whose care you desired my letter to your brother might be addressed, I send the enclosed certificate⁶⁷ for him, under cover to you.

I thank you for your kind and friendly wishes, and with Mrs. Washington's compliments to Mrs. Hay and yourself, and a return

65. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

67. A copy of this certificate, dated Feb. 1, 1785, is in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*, to the effect that "Neither directly, nor indirectly to my knowledge or belief, did

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I ever obtain the least information of the state of the British forces, or other concerns of theirs in Canada, from Mr. Charles Hay, a subject of Great Britain under that Government.”

of friendly sentiments, I am, etc.⁶⁸

To ROBERT MORRIS

Mount Vernon, February 1, 1785.

Dear Sir: I have been favored with your letter of the first of last month, by Doctr. Gilpin and Mr. Scott.⁶⁹ Mr. Colby, they informed me remained indisposed at Baltimore. It will always give me pleasure to see any Gentleman of your introduction. No apology therefore need ever accompany it.

Having begun a letter to you, I will take the liberty of suggesting a matter for your consideration; which, if it strikes you, in the important light it does me, and it is likely to be realized, you may profit by: if it does not, I hope at the same time that you may arraign my foresight, or charge me with being too sanguine, you will do justice to my motives: these, let me assure you, are friendly and pure.

No doubt, before this letter can have reached you, you will have heard, that the States of Virginia and Maryland

68. From the “Letter Book” copy in the *Washington Papers*.

69. From the West Indies.

have enacted laws for the purposes of opening and extending the navigations of the rivers Potomac and James, as far as is practicable; and communicating them by good roads with the nearest navigable waters (for inland craft) to the Westward; the first, to be undertaken by corporate companies with public aids: the other at public expence.

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The tolls which are granted to encourage the first of these, are in my judgment, fully adequate to the purpose, as a candid man, I think them too high, considering the harvest which the public is preparing for the adventures in that undertaking, by opening a communication between the Atlantic and Western Territory: but the importance of the object, considered either in a commercial or political point of view is so great, the combination of favourable circumstances at this epocha so many, and the abilities of the two States under their present pressure of debts, so incompetent to a work of this sort (even if it had been judged the best mode), that to commence it without delay it was thought best to offer a productive field to those who are disposed to labour therein. And if I live to see the issue, I will, if it does not prove so, acknowledge myself more mistaken than I ever was before, in any speculative point.

I do not advance this doctrine my good sir, with a view to stimulate you to become a subscriber. If I was disposed to do this at the hazard of deception, I see not the occasion for it in the case before us; for it is more the expectation at present, that a redundancy than a deficiency, will take place upon the opening of subscriptions for this river: And because your own judgment and convenience can best determine to what amount, or whether to subscribe anything towards the execution of this plan. There are some things however, of which some

men have better opportunities to form opinions than others; and of the intercourse which this work is likely to open between the tide water of this river and the greatest extent of back Country within the United States. I have as good means to judge from as most men, and every proof that nature, and reflection upon its bountious gifts can adduce, to convince me that there is no field for commerce equal to it, if extent of Country, population, and produce with the conveniences of transportation, are essential to the encouragement and support of it. But these want to be embraced. This however, will not much longer be the case, a Mercantile eye is penetrating, and the first capital House, that is established may

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form connexions, and lay a sure foundation of trade to the greatest possible extent from the upper sea ports of this river.

No man who has any knowledge of the river Potomac, harbours a doubt of the practicability of its navigation from the great Falls to Fort Cumberland, (about 200 miles) and for 40 miles higher; and it is but very few only who have any doubt of the practicability of opening it from the great Falls, (inclusive) to tide water, which is under 9 miles. The acts I have spoken of are to encourage and authorise these; and, as I have observed before, sufficient priviledges and immunities are granted for the purpose.

From Fort Cumberland, a good road may be had to the Turkey foot, or three branches of the Yohoghaney, which will not I am told, exceed thirty miles. From thence the navigation to Fort Pitt, about 75 miles further, altho' there is one fall in the way, can be made good at a very moderate expence. By going up the

No. branch of Potomac bout 40 miles above Fort Cumberland, a portage may be had with the Cheat river, which will not exceed 20 miles of good road, from hence to the Monongahela by land or water may be about 25 miles more. We are then, as in the case of the Yohoy. communication, open to the diffusive navigation (more extensive perhaps than is to be met with in any Country upon Earth) in its natural state, of the whole western Territory. And if I am not misinformed with respect to the carrying places between Cayahoga (a water of Lake Erie) and big beaver, and Muskingum, which disembogue into the Ohio at different points; there is no rout so short, so easy and attended with so little expence, as those I have just mentioned, to bring all the Fur and Peltry of the Lakes, even from that of the Wood, to tide water. One of them (by the Yohoghaney) is shorter by more than 150 miles, than that to either Albany or Montreal: and the way open at seasons, when the others are block'd, and is besides more independent of the interference of foreign powers;

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That the greatest part, if not all the produce of the Ohio and its waters as low as the Falls, if a better channel cannot be found for part of it by way of the Gt. Kanhawa and James river to Richmond; or as low as the little Kanhawa, admitting this, I have very little doubt. It is true that there are some branches of the Alleghaney above Fort Pitt, which communicate pretty nearly with the waters of Susquehanna, which by great exertion and expence, may be made use of at certain seasons of the year, but droughts in Summer, and Ice in Winter will render them of little value.

But to place things in a less favourable point of view, I will grant that a communication between the Kiskeminetas Moghulbughkitum, or Toby's Creek (waters most favourable for it) and the Susquehanna shall be opened, and that all the produce convenient

thereto, shall be transported that way to the Markets below: that the Gt. Kanhawa shall be found free from obstructions, and easy both in its navigation, and communication with James river, and that all the province below the mouth of the former, and as far up the Ohio as the Little Kanhawa, shall be transported that way: there yet remains the thick settlement of the Ohio, between Fort Pitt and Wheeling, all the Settlement of the Monongahela, and all that of Yohioghany, which constitute a very large majority of the Inhabitants West of the Laurel hill, to bring their produce to the Markets of this river.

In admitting this, I admit, in my opinion a good deal; but if the plan for opening the navigation of Potomac should succeed, of which I have not the smallest doubt, I will go further and venture an assertion which I think is founded in fact; that without any support from the Western Territory, there is no place within my knowledge to which so much produce will, from the nature of things, be brought, as to the highest shipping port on this river. That this may not appear as mere assertion, I will give you my reasons.

At present Baltimore not only receives the greatest part of the produce of Frederick County (Maryland) and the Counties above it on the No. side of Potomac, but a great deal also of that which is raised on the south side; and this thro' a long land transportation:

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besides which, the produce of that rich and extensive Country, between the blue ridge and Alleghany mountains, for at least 200 miles So. West of the Potomac, is (or such part of it as will bear land transportation; carried partly to Alexandria, and the towns below it on

this river, partly to Fredericksburgh and Falmouth on Rappahannock, partly to Richmond and Petersburg, and some part also to Hanover town, the highest navigation upon York river. But let the benefits arising from water transportation, be once felt, and then see, if men possessed of the spirit of Commerce and large capitals should settle at the shipping ports at the head of this river, whether an atom of it will cross the Potomack for Baltimore; whilst every thing within its vortex on the No. side will be sucked into, and be transported by water. In like manner the Shannondoah will intercept every article 200 miles from its mouth, and water bear it to the Markets at the head of this river. In Septembr. last I was on the Shannondoah, near or quite 150 Miles from its mouth, and was told by well informed Gentlemen living thereon that the navigation of it might be improved, and rendered fit for inland craft at the smallest expence imaginable, the distance here mentioned. In a word, the Shannondoah which runs thro' the richest tract of Country in this State, the South branch of Potomac, which may, with great ease be made navigable 100 miles, and the intermediate streams of lesser note which pour into Potomac; will not only bring the land transportation of every farmer and Planter in that Country, within the short distance of fifteen or twenty miles, but in the upper and more remote parts of it, induce hundreds and thousands of them to cultivate articles from the growth of which they have been entirely discouraged by the length and expence of land transportation, except in the article of live stock which will carry itself to market, attempting to raise no more than will supply their own necessities. On the other side of the river, the Conogoge and Monocasy, tho' of less importance, will be improved to great advantage.

The mercantile interest of

Baltimore affect to treat the extension of the navigation of Potomac as a chimerical plan; but you may be assured Sir, that from the Great Falls, which are within eight or nine

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miles of tide water, to Fort Cumberland, there is no more difficulty or uncertainty in the execution, comparatively speaking, than there is in bringing water to a Mill by a common race: of nothing more therefore is ever effected, the object notwithstanding is immense, when the field into which it leads is considered. But I have no doubt of the practicability of accomplishing the whole if properly undertaken.

In one or two places of this letter, I have observed that to make proper advantages of this navigation, and the extensive commerce it opens a door to; it requires a large capital as well as a Commercial spirit. I will explain myself.

Alexandria and Georgetown are the highest shipping Ports of this river (if the latter can be call'd one); the trade of Georgetown, I am but little acquainted with; but if I have formed a right idea of the former, it abounds in small dealers: Men who import, or purchase their goods in the Country upon credit, consequently obtain them under very great disadvantages: the former class too for the most part, go to one Market, chiefly to England, for every article they purchase; by which means, such manufactures as Holland, Germany, France &ca. could supply upon much better terms, (being of their own production) come with accumulated charges. These added to House rent, which is high in Alexandria, and sinks deep into the profits of a small

capital, occasion considerable advance of the price of Goods, the consequence of which is, that the retail dealers in the interior parts of the Country, are induced to go, indeed are in a manner driven, to Baltimore or Philadelphia for their goods. How otherwise is this fact, and the transportation of the staple and other produce of this country, to those markets to be accounted for? The navigation of this river is equal, if not superior to any in the Union. Goods, I presume may be imported into it, and the produce of the Country exported from it, upon as advantageous terms, as they can from either Philadelphia, Baltimore or any other place, which evinces the truth of my observation, or that the traders of Alexandria are not content with the profits of their fellow labourers in the places I have named. But would either of these any longer exist if large whole-sale Stores, upon the most advantageous

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terms, were established in that place? And the produce of the back Country brought thither by water, for one fourth of what it is now by land, or a sixth, perhaps tenth, (according to the distance it is carried) of what it can be transported to Baltimore?

At present every farmer who lives on the West side of the blue ridge verging upon Shenandoah, gives I am told one third of his wheat for bringing the other two thirds to any shipping port. Tobacco costs at least 40/a Hhd., and other things in proportion. A little higher up, and the expence of transportation to a prohibition of the culture of them; tho' the land is better adapted, than any other in the State for the cultivation of them. But if water transportation is effected, that which now costs a #., may be delivered for 6d. or less a bushel, and where the expence of carriage has hitherto discouraged the growth of it altogether, it will be raised in great quantities, and so with

respect to Tobo. and other articles.

Having given you this statement of the matter which has fallen under my observation, and which is not exaggerated in any instance intentionally, I leave you to compare it with other information and your own observations, if you have opportunities of making any and drawing your own conclusions. I have no other objects in view, but to promote a measure which I think is pregnant with great public utility, and which may at the same time, be made subservient to extensive private advantages. Were I disposed to encounter present inconvenience for a future income, I would hazard all the money I could raise upon the navigation of the river. Or had I inclination and talents to enter into the commercial line, I have no idea of a better opening than the one I discarded upon to make a fortune. But the first has no charms for me, and the other I never shall engage in. My best respects and good wishes, with which Mrs. Washingtons are united, are offered to Mrs. Morris and the rest of your family; and I am, etc.

P.S. I send you a copy of the Bill⁷⁰ passed by the two States, for opening and extending the navigation of the river Potomac.⁷¹

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70. The engrossed bill, which passed the Virginia House of Delegates, was lent to Washington to save time in getting copies printed. He returned it to the Clerk of the House, John Beckley, in a brief note, dated Feb. 5, 1785.

71. Both the letter and a copy of this note to Beckley are in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

***To CLEMENT BIDDLE**

Mount Vernon, February 1, 1785.

Dear Sir: In a letter of the 14th. of Decr. from Mr. Boudinot (which only came to my hands by the last Post) he informs me that he should send Six bushls. of the Orchard grass Seeds to your care for my use. If this has been done, I pray you not to forego the first opportunity of forwarding it to me, as it ought to be Sowed as soon as the ground can be prepared, which I am now getting in order for its reception.

It do not know how to account for it, but so the fact is, that altho' I am a Subscriber to Messrs. Dunlap and Claypoole's Packet and daily Advertiser, I do not get one paper in five of them, was I to say one of ten, I should be nearer the mark. Once I wrote to Mr. Claypoole on this subject, but he never vouchsafed to give me an answer, and since I have been worse served. If I recollect right, this letter was accompanied with one to you requesting payment of my subscription; lest a tardiness in this respect, on my part, might occasion the ommissions on his. I now ask the same favor of you, and pray also, that you would be so obliging as to enquire into, and let me know the cause of my disappointments. which I have regretted the more, since their publication of Cookes voyages; having never been able to get a bound and lettered sett of them.

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Be it remembered that, if the fulfilment of these requests of mine, places you in advance for me, it is because I cannot get a statement of the acct. between us, that I may know how the Balle. stands.

You talked of coming to Virginia, and I assure you I should be very glad to see you; but it seems as if it would end in talk.

I have received a Cask of clover Seeds and a box with a cast (from Mr. Wright) unaccompanied by a letter or Invoice.

I do not know therefore whether to expect the English grass seed of which you gave me hopes, or not. We have heard of Mrs. Shaws marriage, on which occasion please to offer her mine, and Mrs. Washingtons compliments of congratulation, at the sametime present our best wishes for Mrs. Biddle and your family. I am etc.

PS. Be so good as to let the enclosed go safe to Messrs. Lewis's. it is to request them to provide me a *good* Miller of which I am much in want, and in the doing of which, if you could contribute, it would render me an essential Service.

Since writing the foregoing, I have recollected a matter of business which I intended when you came here to have asked the favor of you to negotiate for me. I now enclose it, and would thank you for getting it settled if it is to be done, at the proper Office in Philadelphia. The endorsements upon the cover of the Papers (which was made at the time they were put into my hands) contain all the light I can throw upon the business.⁷² I pray you to take care of it with the rest of the Papers and let me have it again with whatever settlement is made, or decision is come to; as I have no copy, or other Memm. by which I can settle an acct. with Gilbert Simpson, or John Johns relative to this matter. I am as above.

[H.S.P.]

72. Biddle's answer (Mar. 7, 1785) does not explain this business.

To ROBERT LEWIS & SONS

Mount Vernon, February 1, 1785.

Gentn: You may think me very troublesome; and the reason I assign for it, which is, an opinion that you can serve me better than any other, no good apology for the liberty I take.

My Miller (Wm. Roberts) is now become such an intolerable sot, and when drunk so great a Madman, that, however unwilling I am to part with an old Servant (for he has been with me fifteen years) I cannot with propriety or common justice to myself bear with him any longer. I pray you once more therefore, to engage and forward a Miller for me as soon as you may have it in your power, and whatever engagement you shall enter into on my behalf I will religeously fulfill. I do not stipulate for the wages; Altho' my mill (being on an indifferent stream, and not constant at work) can lily afford high wages. My wish is to procure a person who understands the manufacturing business perfectly, and who is sober and honest, that I may even at the expence of paying for it, have as little trouble as possible with him. If he understood the business of a Mill-wright and was obliged by his agreement to keep the Mill in repair, so much the better. Whatever agreement you may enter into on my behalf, let it be reduced to writing and specifically declared, that there may be no misconception or disputes thereafter.

The House in which he will live is a very comfortable one and within 30 yards of the Mill (which works two pair of stones, one pair french Bur's), there is a small Kitchen convenient thereto, and a good Garden under paling. There is a Cowpers⁷³ shop within a hundred yards of the

73. Cooper.

mill, with three negro Cowpers, which will also be under the direction of the miller, whose allowance of meat, flour, and priviledges of every kind, I would have ascertained to prevent after claims. I do not object to the mans having a family, a wife I shou'd wish him to have,

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but I wou'd it not be *too* large. At any rate be so good as to let me hear from you, that I may know on what to rely, as it is not safe for me to entrust my business any longer in the hands of Wm. Roberts. It only remains now to ask your forgiveness for this trouble and to assure you that I am Gentn. Yr. etc.⁷⁴

To OTHO HOLLAND WILLIAMS

Mount Vernon, February 2, 1785.

Dr. Sir: Your letter of the 24th. ulto. with eighty three Diplomas⁷⁶ came to my hands on Monday last. I have signed and returned them to Colo. Fitzgerald to be forwarded to you.

It would be hard indeed upon Majr. Turner⁷⁷ and Captn. Claypoole⁷⁸ not only to give them the trouble of producing the Diplomas, but to saddle them with the expence of it also. Was there no provision made therefore at the General Meeting? Do not the minutes of that Meeting devise some mode of payment? I well remember that the matter was agitated, but I forgot

74. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

76. Of the Society of the Cincinnati.

77. Maj. George Turner, formerly of the First South Carolina Regiment.

78. Capt. Abraham George Claypoole, formerly of the Third Pennsylvania Regiment.

what, or whether any conclusion was come to: and recollect also that I desired Gent. Knox when difficulties arose with respect to the business which had been entrusted to Majr. L'Enfant to suggest, that the sum which I had proposed to subscribe for the purposes of the Society might be applied to any uses the Meeting should direct; but what the result of it was, I know not. It was observed at that time, that there was money in the hands of the Treasurer General, but not having the proceedings to refer to, and a bad memory to

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depend upon, these things appear like dreams to me. With great esteem and regard I am, etc.⁷⁹

***To CLEMENT BIDDLE**

Mount Vernon, February 2, 1785.

Dear Sir: The Writer⁷⁵ of the inclosed letter, in person and character, is entirely unknown to me. I have been at a loss therefore to determine what notice to take of it. At length I concluded to write the answer which is also enclosed; and to request the favor of you to send it to him, or return it to me, as you should just [*sic*] best from the result of your enquiries; or from your own knowledge of the author, or his Works. If he is a man of decent deportment, and his productions deserving encouragement, I am very willing to lend him any aid he can derive from the proposed dedication, if he conceives a benefit. His letter and proposals you will please return me. and Seal the letter to him, if it is forwarded to the Address. I am, etc.

[H.S.P.]

79. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

75. Aeneas Lamont.

To BENJAMIN VAUGHAN

Mount Vernon, February 5, 1785.

Sir: I pray you to accept my acknowledgment of your polite letter of the 31st. of October, and thanks for the flattering expressions of it. These are also due in a very particular manner to Doctr. Price,⁸³ for the honble mention he has made of the American General in his excellent observations on the importance of the American revolution addressed, "To the free and United States of America," which I have seen and read with much pleasure.

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Captn. Haskell in the Ship May arrived at Alexandria a few days ago; but a frost which at present interrupts the navigation of the river, has prevented my sending for the Chimney piece: by the number of cases however, I greatly fear it is too elegant and costly for my room, and republican stile of living. I regret exceedingly that the politeness of your good Father should have overcome my resolution, and thereby occasion the trouble and difficulty which this business seems to have involved. Nothing could have been more remote from my intentions than to give this, and I earnestly, but in vain, entreated Mr. Vaughan to countermand his order for the shipment of it. I have the honor, etc.⁸⁴

83. Rev. Richard Price, English nonconformist minister and author.

84. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To SAMUEL VAUGHAN

Mount Vernon, February 5, 1785.

Dr. Sir: I have the honor to inform you that the Chimney piece is arrived, and by the number of Cases (ten) too elegant and costly by far I fear for my room, and republican stile of living, tho' it encreased the sense of my obligation to you for it. The Ship arrived at her Port just as this second frost set in, so that it has not been in my power to send up for these cases by water; and I would not hazard the transportation of them by land, nine miles.

They were accompanied by a very polite letter from your Son Benjamin Vaughan Esqr. of London, to whom under cover with this, I have acknowledged the receipt, with thanks for the favourable expression of it. I hope Mrs. Vaughan and your family enjoy good health, to whom with Mrs. Washington's compliments, I pray to be presented in respectful terms. With great esteem and regard, I am, etc.⁸⁵

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85. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.